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OBITUARIES

DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA

JANUARY 1, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

WITH INDEX

Extracted from THE STAR
Auburn, Indiana

By Patricia Watson Dyson
Poneto, Indiana
2011

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STAR
January 2 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Rhett Chapman

ST. JOE — Rhett B. Chapman, 70, died Friday, December 31, 2010 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born in Allen County on July 12, 1940 to the late C. Richard & M. Madelon (Van Zile) Chapman. He married Flossie Rose Scott on September 21, 1963 in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Chapman

Survivors include his wife Flossie Chapman of St. Joe; son Jack (Crystal) Chapman of Spencerville; Jamie Chapman of St. Joe; Jeff Chapman of Auburn; Jonathan Chapman of St. Joe; daughter Holly Michael of Fort Wayne; brothers John Chapman of Yoder; Kevin Chapman of Hagerstown, Md.; sisters Karen Mahaffey, Cape Charles, Va.; Dara Amstutz of Spencerville; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He worked in road construction doing asphalt paving and also owned the Chapman Bait Store in Spencerville. He loved eagles, fishing, mushroom hunting, bowling and spending time with his family.

Calling will be held on Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Services will be held on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with burial being in White City Cemetery, Spencerville.

Memorials may be made to Parkview Hospice - 2200 Randallia Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

'Her heart had no limits'

Hippenhammer cared for foster children, many stray animals

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — Cassandra Hippenhammer was a foster parent and had a deep love for animals.

"Her heart knew no limits," commented her good friend, Jennifer Getts, president of the Humane Society of Noble County. Mrs. Hippenhammer was vice-president of the humane society and recently had been re-elected to another term.

Mrs. Hippenhammer, 58, of Kendallville passed away Dec. 17, 2010.

"She was never able to have children of her own, but she had many foster children, and her animals, all her children," said her pastor, Barbara Cross of the Rome City United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Hippenhammer served for many years on the humane society board, volunteered at the humane shelter in Kendallville and helped raise funds for the society.

With her husband, John, they collected canister donations for the shelter. They traveled around Noble County each month collecting doggy banks, counting the donations and promoting the welfare of pets. She even painted the doggie banks when they started to show some wear.

Cassandra Sue Hippenhammer

She was instrumental in establishing the silent auction held during the shelter's annual open house that became a profitable fundraiser. She started collecting items last January for the silent auction held last month, according to Sue Abbs, the shelter's business manager.

Mrs. Hippenhammer felt a personal responsibility to help homeless pets, according to Getts.

"Cass was always willing to go the extra mile for homeless pets, and was an advocate for pet microchipping (a permanent identification system for reuniting pets with their masters)," Getts said.

Abbs said she will miss Mrs. Hippenhammer's warm smile and dedication to finding homes for dogs and cats.

Cross described her as a talented artist who made plants in a basket for her and the church.

Mrs. Hippenhammer loved to cook and bake.

"When everybody brought a dish (to a special gathering), Cassie brought a buffet," a relative commented.

Getts admired her positive attitude. She always had some words of encouragement, no matter the problem. She was proud of the foster children she helped raise, and boasted of the grandchildren that came into her life.

"Cass was a mother to everyone she knew, two-legged or four," commented humane society board member Brendan Avery.

Mrs. Hippenhammer is survived by her husband of 39 years, John, and many cousins.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Humane Society of Noble County, 1305 S. Sherman St., Kendallville IN 46755.

Debra Tom-Nave

AUBURN — Debra Tom-Nave, 57, died Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Fort Wayne, Debra worked as a computer processor with Specialized Transportation Inc. She was a member of Dayspring Community Church, Auburn.

Mrs. Tom-Nave

Surviving are her husband, Michael J. Nave of Auburn; her mother, Dorothy Tom of Auburn; two daughters, Laureen (Ken) Voirol of Fort Wayne and Erin K. McCrady of Auburn, three stepdaughters, Kristy Taylor of Warren, Michelle Nave of Mt. Comfort, and Lee Ann Nave; a brother, Terry Tom; a sister, Lynne Loubier of Albany, Ga.; five grandsons; and one granddaughter.

Debra was preceded in death by her father, Robert Tom.

Services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 East Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, with William Lyne officiating. Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials may be made to the Dayspring Community Church, 1700 E. 7th St., Auburn, IN 46706, or the Leukemia Society of America, Indiana Chapter.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Sandra Healy

AUBURN — Sandra Maxine (Immel) Healy, 72, of Auburn, went to be with God on Jan. 1, 2011, in the cancer care unit at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, under hospice care.

She was born Aug. 4, 1938, in Ashley to Harold and Georgia (Tuttle) Immel. They both preceded her in death.

Mrs. Healy

She married Lawrence Edward Healy on Nov. 15, 1958, in Auburn. He passed away on Aug. 2, 1997.

Mrs. Healy was a homemaker while raising her family. She then went to work at Airway in Auburn, Wesley Health Care, and Ponderosa.

She was a member of the Butler Eagles and in past years she was a volunteer for the Jackson Township Fire Department.

Surviving are her companion, Jack Cluster and his family of Auburn; a son, Mark Healy of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Synthia Coons of Auburn, and Stephanie and Kevin Miller of Auburn; a stepson and his spouse, Jerry and Mary Healy of Florida; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Carolyn and Ozzie Stayer of Waterloo; 12 grandchildren, Dawn Wells, Misty Bell, Kandy Crager, Amber Crager, Sandra Rodriguez, Markie Healy, Nathan Healy, Tiffany Greenwood, Nikki Healy, Kris Heimach, Lonnie Hartman, and Lorna Stayer; 25 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Clair Immel and his family of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Paul Patton officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Vanderpool

AUBURN — Robert "Bob" Vanderpool Jr., 75, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Bob was born March 6, 1935, in Hueysville, Ky., to Robert and Rachael (Hicks) Vanderpool Sr.

He worked for 25 years as a truck driver for Cooper Industrial Products of Auburn before retiring in 1997.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran. He was a member and very active in the Waterloo Freewill Baptist Church and loved to play his guitar worshiping his Lord.

He was also a member of the Auburn American Legion Post 97 and the N.R.A.

Bob married Nancy Slone on April 14, 1954, in Brinkley, Ky., and she survives. He is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, N. Jean Schendel-Findley (Michael Findley) of Huntertown and Joyce (Mike) Boswell of Auburn; son Charles M. Vanderpool of Auburn; sister Betty Jane McDaniel of Auburn; six grandchildren, David Vanderpool, Robert Vanderpool, Sarah Schendel, Katie (Bwana) Clements, Erik Boswell and Jaime Boswell; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Adolph Collins and Rodolph Collins.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, at Waterloo Freewill Baptist Church with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh and the Rev. Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. Calling is Tuesday from 4-7 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service Wednesday at the church.

Memorials can be directed to Waterloo Freewill Baptist Church or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

To view an obituary or send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

William Moore

AUBURN — William H. Moore, 91, of Auburn died Sunday, January 2, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Moore

Bill was born on June 1, 1919, in Auburn to Henry and Ada (Van) Moore.

He was a mechanic most of his life. He co-owned and operated the Smith and Moore Mobile Gas Station in Auburn for a number of years, then he went to work for the Allison Corporation retiring from there in 1981.

He served his country during WWII as an airplane mechanic in the U.S. Navy.

Bill was a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge and a 50-year member of the Auburn Moose Lodge.

He loved to golf, fish and he formerly bowled in the Monday and Thursday night leagues.

He married Judith (Ridenour) Seavers on August 2, 1971, in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by two daughters, Vickie (Lloyd) Collins of Philadelphia, Pa., and Sandra Campbell of New Haven; a stepdaughter and stepson, Julie (Dave) Cramer of Peoria, Ill., and Jeff (Carole) Seavers of Auburn; seven grandchildren, Tori Collins, Angie (Kirk) Oldham, Sarah (Ben) Michel, Connor Seavers, Austin Seavers, Riley Seavers and Brock Seavers; and three great-grandchildren, Riley and Jackson Oldham and Max Michel.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Helen (Nugen) Moore; and three sisters, Dorothy Thomas, Helen Rose and Bonnie Newbauer.

Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 5, 2011, at Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Calling is today, Tuesday, January 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Memorials can be directed to the American Lung Association.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Janet Stine

AUBURN — Janet J. Stine, 76, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 3, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Stine was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born Dec. 9, 1934, in Fort Wayne to Vance and Loella Harsh. She married Robert J. Stine on Feb. 19, 1955, in Fort Wayne. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Nancy Stine of Garrett, Ken Stine of Auburn and Randy and Karen Stine of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Jeff Lyons of Fairfield, Ill.; 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m. Thursday prior to the service at the church. There will also be visitation from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Heritage Mission Children's Home, 1825 W. Shoaff Road, Huntertown, IN 46748.

Send condolences to www.fellerandclark.com.

Donna Davis

AUBURN — Donna Mae (Washler) Davis, 85, of Auburn went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, in Betz Nursing Home, under Hospice Care.

Mrs. Davis

She was born at home on October 27, 1924, in Spencerville, Indiana, to Louis and Hazel (Cover) Washler and was the youngest of two siblings. She was a lifelong resident of DeKalb County, growing up on her parents' farm near the Spencerville Bridge.

She graduated from Spencerville High School in 1942 where she enjoyed being a cheerleader, singing in the chorus, performing in plays and working on the yearbook staff. Also, she was considered an expert roller skater by her peers.

She was married to Chester Davis at Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe, Indiana, on October 5, 1947, and was happily married for the past 63 years.

Donna Mae was a faithful employee at the DeKalb County Courthouse for 25 years as an assistant in the Clerk's Office for Norm Gerig, and later as secretary for Judge Harold Stump and Judge Paul Cherry.

She enjoyed the teaching Sunday School, Children's Church and helping with Vacation Bible School for more than 40 years at Coburn Corners Church of Christ, where she had been a member for more than 70 years. She attended Auburn Church of Christ for two years.

Donna Mae was a member and officer of the Jacksonette Home Extension Club for 50 years and looked forward to attending their monthly meetings. She was also a member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau for several years.

She enjoyed gardening, sewing, crocheting, cooking and reading, as well as spending time with family and friends playing dominoes or just visiting. She often sat with friends at the hospital while their family members were ill. She enjoyed delivering home-cooked meals to sick friends. Donna Mae was known for her candy-making at Christmas — toffee, peanut brittle, buckeyes, but especially her caramels. She made hundreds of caramels, which she enjoyed sharing with many businesses around town, as well her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Chester Davis of Auburn, Indiana; her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Patti Davis of Auburn, Indiana; her daughter-in-law, Dr. Colleen Davis, M.D. of Fairport, New York; her eight grandchildren, Brian Davis of Kentland, Indiana, Jennifer (Davis) Rothenberger of Ellicott City, Maryland, Abigail Davis of Novi, Michigan, Emelie (Davis) Barta of Brownsburg, Indiana, John Davis of Auburn, Indiana, and Kelly, Caitlin and Erin Davis of Fairport, New York; her six great-grandchildren, Julia (daughter of Brian), Reese (daughter of Jennifer), Mallory (daughter of Abigail) and Tristan, Caleb and Harper (sons of Emelie). She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Charles and MaryAnn Washler of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

She was predeceased by her son, Ronald Davis of Fairport, New York.

Visitation will be Saturday, January 8, from 12 p.m.-2 p.m., followed by the funeral at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, Indiana. Pastor Doug Holley will be officiating. He was a family friend and former pastor for Donna Mae at the Coburn Corners Church of Christ.

The graveside service will be at Alton Cemetery in St Joe, Indiana.

Memorials may be given to DeKalb County Hospice, who the family thanks for keeping her comfortable during her final days on this earth.

Donna Mae Davis would want to be remembered as a joyful, giving and devout Christian. She looked forward to meeting her Savior in Heaven.

N. Irene Koch

ANGOLA — N. Irene Koch, 91, of Angola died Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Koch had been a member of the kitchen staff at Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park in Angola for 20 years, retiring in 1966.

She was a member of Pleasant View Church of Christ and its Friendly Circle.

Mrs. Koch was also a member of the Jackson Township Extension Club and had served as its president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, and a member of FOCUS. She was a member of the Sugar N Spice Home Extension Club and past president of the Silver Lake Ladies Aid.

She was born July 24, 1919, in Hamilton to Floyd and Mary (Vestal) Oberlin. She married Harold Koch on Dec. 15, 1937. He died Aug. 3, 1988.

Surviving are a son, James (Sheila) Koch of Pleasant Lake; a daughter, Marilyn Buckmaster of Auburn; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; six stepgreat-grandchildren; and two stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; and four sisters, Velma Emenhiser, Maxine Reed, Grace Ellen Oberlin and Donna June Oberlin.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Pastor Alan LaRue officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

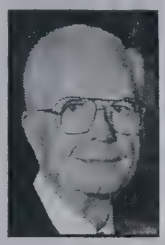
Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Pleasant View Church of Christ and the DeKalb Hospice.

Sign a guestbook at www.weichtfh.com.

J. Wayne Beuret

AUBURN — J. Wayne Beuret, 95, lifelong Auburn resident, died January 5, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.


Mr. Beuret

He was born February 18, 1915, in Auburn, the second child and only son of the late Louis J. and Eda F. (Raub) Beuret.

He graduated from Auburn High School in 1932 and worked for several years at his father's grocery store and gasoline station on West Seventh Street. In 1937, he began working as a letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office in Auburn, and retired from the Postal Service in 1975 as assistant postmaster.

He married Patricia L. Benton on October 30, 1940. She preceded him in death in 2006.

His parents; a daughter, Mary Louise Beuret; and his sister, LuEda Beuret Pontius; preceded him in death.

Mr. Beuret was engaged throughout his adult life in parish activities at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. He was a founding member of its Knights of Columbus chapter, and was the last survivor of the building committee that planned the parish's present facility, dedicated in 1958. He also served for many years on the parish's cemetery committee.

In his retirement years he enjoyed oil painting, traveling, and reading.

He is survived by two sons, Dr. Lawrence J. Beuret of Rolling Meadows, Ill., and Kevin Beuret of Howe; two daughters, Kathy (Rudolph G.) Paquette of Elkhart, and Mary Ann (Stephen) Liechty of LaGrange; two grandsons, Jonathan (Mitra) Soss of Vista, Calif., and Alec Liechty of Portland, Ore.; and a granddaughter, Meredith Liechty, currently serving with the U.S. Navy in Monterey, Calif.

Other survivors include three nephews and five nieces.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, with visitation one hour prior, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Visitation is also Sunday from 1-5 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to Masses, the Food for the Poor, Inc., 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073, or the Crazy Horse Memorial, 12151 Avenue of the Chiefs, Crazy Horse, SD 57730.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Gregory Bell

HUNTINGTON — Gregory Wayne Bell, 45, of Huntington died Jan. 3, 2011, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Bell

He was born Jan. 23, 1965, in Garrett to Claude Bell and Carolyn Irish.

Surviving are his partner, Tresa Sattherwait of Huntington; seven children, Gregory Bell of Corbin, Ky., Brandi Bell of Waterloo, Chad Bell of Fort Wayne, Amber Bell of Auburn, and Faith, Levi and Megan Bell of Andrews; five grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Patrick and Jennifer Bell of Fort Wayne; sisters and brothers-in-law, Tammy and Randy Sonner of Butler and Angie and Gary Gower of Butler; two half brothers, Mike Bell of Auburn and Nate Wilondek and his wife, Bernadette, of Butler; a half sister, Wendy Bell of Auburn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and an infant son, Mark.

Calling will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Free Bible Tabernacle Church, 206 W. Washington St., Butler, with services immediately following.

Memorial contributions are to the family to help defray funeral expenses.

STAR
January 8 2011 Auburn, Indiana

John Reinoehl

ANGOLA — John H. Reinoehl, 87, of Angola and formerly of Ashley died Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Reinoehl

Mr. Reinoehl was a lifetime resident of Smithfield Township, DeKalb County. He was a farmer and had been an inspector for more than 24 1/2 years at International Harvester in Fort Wayne before retiring on July 1, 1983.

He was a member of the Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren in Ashley.

Mr. Reinoehl was a HAMM radio operator.

He was born Aug. 1, 1923, in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, to John H. and Effie T. (Hamman) Reinoehl. He married Marjorie Hartman on Oct. 23, 1942, in Noble County. She died Dec. 24, 2007.

Surviving are six sons and two daughters, John Reinoehl of Waterloo, James Reinoehl of Townsend, Tenn., Phillip Reinoehl of Mishawaka, Mark Reinoehl of Waterloo, Joel Reinoehl of White Pigeon, Mich., Chris Reinoehl of Mishawaka, Carol Smith of Angola and Brenda Dudley of Phoenix, Ariz.; 19 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a son, David Reinoehl; four brothers, Willis Reinoehl, Henry Reinoehl, Harold Reinoehl and Paul "Sam" Reinoehl; and two sisters, Olga Taylor and Lydia "Ruth" Parr.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren at Ashley with Pastor Valerie Kline officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo.

Memorials are to the church.

To view the obituary online or send a condolence, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
January 9 2011 Auburn, Indiana

A loving, giving peacemaker

Pleasant Lake's Frye remembered fondly by family, friends

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

PLEASANT LAKE — Opal Frye often reminded her daughter, Carole, over the years: "The older you get — the smarter I get."

Carole said her mother was right, seeing as they were close and learned from each other.

Opal Frye, 81, of Pleasant Lake and formerly of Albion, died Nov. 25.

Opal was best known for being a loving mother, wife and grandmother, keeping busy, volunteering and being a peacemaker.

"I am the youngest and only girl. She was my best friend," Carole said, choking up. "She was most loving and giving."

Opal was born Oct. 6, 1929, in Shawnee, Kan., to William E. Rea and Hazel F. (Schutt) Rea.

Opal had a very active role in the Pleasant Lake United Methodist Food Bank and other church ministries. She counted Sunday attendance, saved containers for childcare and repaired what needed fixing at church with her husband, Jerome. Carole said her mother could be found helping at the church's food pantry every Thursday.

"She talked about how many people needed help," Carole said. "The last two years, she and my dad would take a shift at the live nativity at church. I remember taking my son and he'd say, 'That's Grandma.'"

"She helped with Lions Club dinners, and she helped make cheese balls as a fundraiser," Carole said. "She cooked and taught me how to make a lot of things: homemade pies — mincemeat and rhubarb — homemade bread and cinnamon rolls. When I was little, I remember her making pies for (a restaurant). She had things down to a science — she'd just whip them out in the morning."

Despite raising four boys and a girl, Opal looked after five or six other children with no problem, Carole recalled.

"One time she dressed up as a witch and went trick or treating to check up on my brothers," Carole laughed.

In addition to helping others, Opal enjoyed watching deer in her backyard and hummingbirds. She crocheted blankets for her family and liked reading — mostly romance stories. Carole said her mother was frugal, going to great lengths to scour advertisements prior to shopping trips, looking for the best deal on whatever they needed.

Carole said when her mother was a child, she lived in a boxcar with her family, so her father could do railroad repairs.

"We moved here when my son, Ty, was 3. He had a lot of health problems … (my parents) helped with Ty," Carole said. "Mom was really close to him. She'd give him anything he wanted — that's Grandma. She taught him to play five-card draw in poker. She said it was a life skill."

Opal's lifelong friend, Carol McMurray of Bonita Springs, Fla., said she kept in touch by letter over the years with her childhood chum. "

She was a wonderful wife, mother and friend, and we always wrote back and forth until her death," McMurray said by e-mail. "She always had time to help with anyone's problems. We took our kids swimming when we only had peanut butter sandwiches and Kool-Aid to drink. We played in the school band together, and she was just a great friend I will always miss."

Opal is survived by her husband of 63 years, Jerome Price Frye; three children, Jerome E. "Jef" Frye, Kenneth D. Frye and Carole A. Frye, all of Pleasant Lake; a brother, Bill (Diane) Rea of Columbia City; six grandchildren, Jeridan Frye, Jeff Frye, Holly Carter, Ty Frye, Braeden Wallen-Frye, and Jacob Phillips; and six great-grandchildren, Arianna Frye, Aliyah Frye, Logan Paris, Mariah Paris, Kaitlyn Phillips and Kamdyn Phillips. She was preceded in death by two sons, Larry R. Frye and Michael A. Frye, in 1997; and three brothers, Melvin Rea, William Rea and Charles Rea.

Burial was in Pleasant Lake Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Lake United Methodist Church.

James Holmes

WATERLOO — James A. Holmes, 74, died Friday, Jan. 7, 2011 at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was born on May 4, 1936 in Morgantown, West Virginia, to Carl and Opal (McBee) Holmes.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was a member of the Butler American Legion. He was a retired custodian with East Allen County Schools.

James enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, friends and camping.

He married Elizabeth Betty Joyce on February 28, 1959 in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are: a daughter, Karen (Mark) Ensch of Auburn; two brothers, Carl Holmes and Jack Holmes of Washington, Pennsylvania; two sisters, Irma Gray and Barbara Cage of Washington, Pennsylvania; two grandchildren, James Wolfe of Butler, and Jenna Ensch of Auburn; and a great granddaughter, Dayzee Reid-Wolfe of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Kathy Holmes, two brothers, Walter and Thomas Holmes, a sister, Evelyn Morris, and his beloved dog Rusty.

Funeral services for James Holmes will be Monday at 2 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Military honors will be provided by the Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Monday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family or donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to hejohnsonfh.com.

William Kessler

BUTLER — William R. "Bill" Kessler, 69, of Butler died Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Kessler

Bill was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

He worked for Crane Edmund in Butler for 18 years before retiring as plant supervisor of Kitchen-Quip in Waterloo in 2007, after 30 years of service. He also enjoyed being a DeKalb County farmer.

He was a 1959 graduate of Butler High School.

He attended Norris Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Auburn.

He was born Aug. 10, 1941, in Churubusco, to Joseph and Mary M. (Foster) Kessler. He married Norma "Jean" Troyer on May 28, 1961, in Waterloo. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly K. and Casey Boyd of Hudson, and Kelly L. Curry of Butler; two sons and daughters-in-law, W. Kenneth and Lisa Kessler of Hamilton, and Kori R. and Mandy Kessler of Butler; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Joseph "Bud" Kessler of Auburn, Jim and Diane Kessler of West Liberty, Ohio, and Keith Kessler of Butler; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Teresa "Snook" and Robert Young of Butler, and Linda Harris of St. Joe; 13 grandchildren and their spouses, Chad and Jenny Strawn, Candi and Steven Bejarano, Cody Curry, Zack Curry, Brandi Curry, Trever Curry, Bryson Curry, Randi Curry, Josh Kessler, Rian Kessler, Steven Kessler, Shawn Kessler, and Troy Kessler; and four great-grandchildren, Trystan, Kailyn, Savannah, and Ramona.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Isabelle "Izzy" Knapp, Louane Haywood, and Mildred Shultz.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Susan Smith Bryden officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, Thursday, and from 10-11 a.m. Friday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County 4-H.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Emma Burkhart

GARRETT — Emma Maxine "Packie" Burkhart, 90, of Auburn and formerly a longtime resident of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Center in Garrett.

Services are Saturday, Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. in the Edgerton Church of Christ with D.V. Dillinger officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton, Ohio.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 14 from 3-7 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

Memorials are to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Birtie Whitt

KENDALLVILLE — Birtie Lee Whitt, 77, of Kendallville and Fort Wayne died Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, at Avalon Village in Ligonier.

Mr. Whitt

Mr. Whitt had been a coal miner in Virginia and was retired. He had moved to Indiana in 1975 from the Grundy and Vansant, W.Va., area.

He had served his country in the United States Army.

He was born May 26, 1933, in Honaker, Va., to Birtie Allison and Osie Oakley (Rae) Whitt. He married Mary Ellen Whitt on Oct. 15, 1965. She died March 9, 2002.

Surviving are three sons, Lee and Gertie Whitt of West Virginia, Arnold Whitt and his companion, Matthew Hannon, both of Fort Wayne and Thomas and Melinda Whitt of West Virginia; four daughters, Ellen and Ivan Browning of West Virginia, Osie and Dustin Tucker of West Virginia, Charlotte Hart of Kendallville and Pauline Hart of Ligonier; 20 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; four brothers, Donald Whitt of Virginia, Lloyd Whitt of Virginia, Ralph Whitt of Virginia and Lonnie Whitt; and a sister, Patty Singleton of Jacksonville, Fla.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Martha Barontas, and four brothers, Gerald, Thomas, Raymond and Arnold Whitt

Visitation will be after 3 p.m. today at the Lighthouse Tabernacle in Kimmell.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Lighthouse Tabernacle with the Rev. Glenn Patrick officiating. Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Joel Ulery

HAMILTON — Joel H. Ulery, 56, of Hamilton, passed away suddenly in his home on Sunday, January 9, 2011.

Mr. Ulery

He was born on June 23, 1954, in Elkhart to John R. Ulery and Marilyn Dawn Kline.

He attended Hamilton High School and then graduated from Indiana University.

Joel worked for Lansing Grain Co. for many years before settling in at Edon Farmers Co-op as a grain trader.

Joel is survived by a daughter, Ashley Dawn Ulery of Angola; a granddaughter, Avery Mansfield of Angola; a sister, Jody (Ron) Enfield of Hamilton; a brother, John (Stephanie) Ulery of Auburn; and three nieces and three nephews.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jeff Ulery.

Joel loved living on the lake and golfing at Cold Springs. He had a passion for life and found his greatest joy spending time with his daughter and granddaughter.

Visitation will be Saturday from 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. service at Hartzler-Gutermuth-Inman Funeral Home, Elkhart.

Burial will follow at Brown Cemetery, Millersburg.

There will be an open house at 5 p.m. Saturday at Cold Springs Hotel in Hamilton, Ind.

Memorials may be given to the charity of the donor's choice or to the family.

William Kessler

BUTLER — William R. "Bill" Kessler, 69, of Butler died Tuesday, Jan, 11, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Kessler

Bill was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

He worked for Crane Edmund in Butler for 18 years before retiring as plant supervisor of Kitchen-Quip in Waterloo in 2007, after 30 years of service. He also enjoyed being a DeKalb County farmer.

He was a 1959 graduate of Butler High School.

He attended Norris Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Auburn.

He was born Aug. 10, 1941, in Churubusco, to Joseph and Mary M. (Foster) Kessler. He married Norma "Jean" Troyer on May 28, 1961, in Waterloo. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly K. and Casey Boyd of Hudson, and Kelly L. Curry of Butler; two sons and daughters-in-law, W. Kenneth and Lisa Kessler of Hamilton, and Kori R. and Mandy Kessler of Butler; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Joseph "Bud" Kessler of Auburn, Jim and Diane Kessler of West Liberty, Ohio, and Keith Kessler of Butler; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Teresa "Snook" and Robert Young of Butler, Linda Harris of St. Joe, and Marlene Wasson of Middlebury; 13 grandchildren and their spouses, Chad and Jenny Strawn, Candi and Steven Bejarano, Cody Curry, Zack Curry, Brandi Curry, Trever Curry, Bryson Curry, Randi Curry, Josh Kessler, Rian Kessler, Steven Kessler, Shawn Kessler, and Troy Kessler; and four great-grandchildren, Trystan, Kailyn, Savannah, and Ramona.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Isabelle "Izzy" Knapp, Louane Haywood, and Mildred Shultz.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Susan Smith Bryden officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling from 10-11 a.m. today prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County 4-H.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Emma Burkhart

AUBURN — Emma Maxine "Packie" Burkhart, age 90, of Auburn and formerly of Edgerton, Ohio, died Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Center in Garret where she was a resident.

Mrs. Burkhart

Mrs. Burkhart had been employed by Spangler Candy Co. in Bryan, Ohio, making candy canes and DumDum suckers and retired with 20 years of service.

She was a member of the Edgerton Church of Christ, the Do-it-Right Farm Bureau Council for more than 50 years and the Card Club.

She was born Aug. 29, 1920, in Sturgis, Mich., to Zera R. and Emma Martha (Kline) David. She married her husband of 7 years, Maurice C. Burkhart, on Dec. 10, 1938, in Spencerville. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Bonnie Davis, of Glendale, Calif., and Dawn (Dan) Nichter of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren, Richard Yarger II and Megan Nichter; one brother, Wendell David of Mount Vernon, Washington, and one sister, Ida Margaret "Peg" Snyder, of Melbourne, Florida.

She was preceded in death by four brothers and four sisters.

Visitation will be held today, Friday, January 14, 2011, from 3-7 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at 11 a.m. in the Edgerton Church of Christ with D.V. Dillinger officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton, Ohio.

Memorials are requested to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), 26 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10004.

To sign the online register or send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

STAR
January 15 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Thomas Troxell

MONTGOMERY, Mich. — Thomas A. Troxell, 62, of Montgomery died Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Troxell had been employed at Mitchell Lumber Co. in Montgomery and was the manager at Fremont Lumber. He had also worked at Dana Corp. in Angola, Ind., for 18 years and at Indiana Marine Products for 10 years.

He was a 1967 graduate of Camden-Frontier High School.

Mr. Troxell served in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam where he received two Bronze Stars.

He was a member and former commander of the Reading American Legion Post 360 and a member of the VFW. He was also a member of Camden United Methodist Church.

He was born Jan. 25, 1948, in Marion, Ind., to Homer and Virginia (Stephenson) Troxell. He married Karen Word on June 23, 1968. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Becky (Jim) Weber of Pioneer, Ohio; a son, Tim (Melodie) Troxell of Montgomery; a sister, Marjorie (Amos) Skelly Corunna, Ind.; four grandchildren, Brandon, Jordan, Joel and Kenzie; and his mother, Virginia Robbins Camden.

He was preceded in death by his father,Homer Troxell, and his stepfather who raised him, Ralph Robbins.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at the George White Funeral Home in Reading, with interment following in Billingstown Cemetery, Williams County, Ohio.

Visitation is scheduled for Sunday from 2-5 p.m.

Memorials are suggested to the Williams County Memorial Veterans Building.

Leonard Smith

WATERLOO — Leonard W. Smith, 89, of Waterloo, died Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Smith was a lifelong Wilmington Township farmer. He also worked for 17 years as superintendent of the Angola sub-district of the Indiana State Highway Department and four years for the DeKalb County Surveyor's Office.

Mr. Smith

He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

He served on the DeKalb County Commissioners Board for four years, the Wilmington Township Advisory Board for 12 years, and the DeKalb County Sheriff's Merit Board for eight years.

He liked to travel and make friends where ever he went, but most of all, he liked to go fishing. Leonard also did a lot of gardening and woodworking, and his pleasure was building things and growing fruit and vegetables, and then giving them all away.

Annabel would say, "Leonard, why do you always bring me in all of the little things from the garden, and give all the nice stuff away?" That was who Leonard was!

He was born March 21, 1921, on the family farm in Wilmington Township, DeKalb County, to Walter and Eva (Souder) Smith. They both preceded him in death.

He married Annabel L. Deetz on June 28, 1941, in the Waterloo United Brethren Church. She passed away May 6, 1998.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Philip E. and Shannon Smith of Butler, and Craig A. and Kathy Smith of Waterloo; a daughter, Carolyn Sue Jackson of Fishers; seven grandchildren, Jamie Moreland, Misty Pursley, Mary Ann Vazquez, Walter Smith, Betsy Braun, Todd Craig, and Christopher Craig; 11 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Rachel Grogg of Waterloo, and Lusina McNall of Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. David Mathews officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit fellerandclark.com.

Kathy Hulbert

ST. JOE — Kathy L. Hulbert, 59, of St. Joe, died Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at her home.

She was born on July 26, 1951, in Fort Wayne to William and Norma Gaspar.

She was a graduate of Elmhurst High School and a retired LPN from the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Kathy enjoyed spending time with family, her pets and antiquing.

Kathy married Steve Hulbert on July 26, 2001, and he survives.

Also surviving are her mother, Norma Gaspar of Fort Wayne, a brother, Bill (Maureen) Gaspar of Roanoke, a sister, Patricia Stark of Fort Wayne, her sisters-in-law, Marsha (Ken) Henry of Avilla, Carolyn Trowbridge of Loveland, Colo., and Darlynne Hulbert of Butler, her brothers-in-law, Robert (Nan) Hulbert of Butler, Bill (Cathy) Hulbert of Butler, and Duane Hulbert of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Gaspar.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Butler Christian Assembly of God Church. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to funeral services at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Humane Shelter or the family.

Condolences may be left at hejohnsonfh.com.

No page 15

Karlene Wilson

FORT WAYNE — Karlene (Hewitt) Wilson, 52, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Butler died Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at her home in Fort Wayne.

Ms. Wilson

Ms. Wilson worked for Universal Tool & Stamping Co. in Butler for 22 years. She was a 1976 graduate of Eastside High School.

She was born July 20, 1958, in Auburn.

Surviving are her mother, Bonnie (Carper) Hopkins of St. Joe; a daughter, Misty Wilson of Eight Mile, Ala.; two sons, Travis Wilson of Fort Wayne and Michael Wilson of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren; a brother, Steven Hewitt of Orlando, Fla.; five sisters and brothers-in-law, Rollene Hewitt of Butler, Brenda and Greg West of St. Joe, Roxanne and Earl Goldsmith of St. Joe, Jennifer Poper of Butler and Dawn McDonald of Kendallville; three stepsisters and spouses, Melena and Homer Zartman of Hope, Ark., Melissa Hopkins of Kaufman, Texas, and Melinda and Dave Cannady of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Roland Hewitt, and her stepfather, Max Hopkins.

Services will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Allen Fugate officiating.

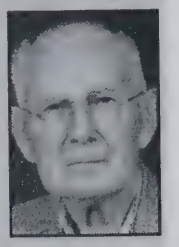
Calling will be from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family in care of Bonnie Hopkins, P.O. Box 93, St. Joe, IN 46785.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

John Mowry

FREMONT — John Paul Mowry, 91, of Fremont and formerly of New Haven died Sunday, January 16, 2011, at his home with his family by his side.


Mr. Mowry

Born in DeKalb County, he was the son of the late Daniel and Mary Mowry.

He was a member of the New Haven United Methodist Church.

The Army Air Corp veteran served his country in WWII and retired in 1981 from Fruehauf after 35 years of service.

He is survived by his children, John (Linda) Mowry of Fremont, Marge (Roger) Lewis of Fort Wayne, and Patti (Lynn) Miller of New Haven; his brothers, Wayne (Esther) Mowry of Wolf Lake, George Mowry of Waterloo, and Bud (Marty) Mowry of Angola; his grandchildren, Angie, Sarah, Paul, Joanna, Alicia, Simeon, Micah, Titus, Lydia, Silas, Hannah, and Susanna; and three great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his wife, Mary Mowry in 2000; and siblings, Nelson Mowry, Treva Bodey and Louise Rosenberry.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 20, 2011, at New Haven United Methodist Church, 630 Lincoln Highway East, New Haven, with calling one hour prior. Pastor Rick Taylor officiating.

Calling is also from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 E., New Haven.

Burial is in I.O.O.F. Cemetery, New Haven.

Preferred memorials are to your local area hospice.

Send condolences to www.harperfuneralhome.com.

Betty Parker

WATERLOO — Betty J. Parker, 70, of Waterloo died Monday, January 17, 2011, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mrs. Parker

She was born in Sneedville, Tenn., on September 9, 1940, to Morgan and Ruth (Collins) Hopkins. They have both passed away.

Betty was a nurse working at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn and Butler Health Care in Butler.

She married Austin Parker in 1987 in Butler and he survives.

She is also survived by five sons, Randy Shaffer of Bryan, Ohio, Ricky Rapp of Bryan, Ohio, Sam Shaffer of Corunna, James L. Marks Jr. of Waterloo and Mark A. Marks Sr. of Butler; 13 grandchildren, Larry Shaffer, Jessica Shaffer, Kathryn Shaffer, Mark Marks Jr., Carrie Marks, Betty L Degraw, Bailey Marks, Paige Marks, Brianna Day, Dizirae Day, Jessica Treesh, Jason Treesh and Jeff Treesh; three great-grandchildren, Bryce Samuel Shaffer, Dayton Cope and Shelbey Cope; and three brothers and a sister, Mitch Hopkins of Butler, Raymond Hopkins of Butler, Jimmy Hopkins of Butler and Peggy Kuhn of Hamilton.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Tina M. DeGraw; five brothers, Jeff Hopkins Taylor Hopkins, Ronny Hopkins, Max Hopkins and Tony Hopkins; a sister, Pam Hopkins; and a grandson, Morgan DeGraw.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 20, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe, Ind.

Calling is three hours prior to the service from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

William Adamo

KENDALLVILLE — William Patrick Adamo, age 71, of Kendallville died on Sunday, January 16, 2011, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Adamo

Mr. Adamo was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on February 6, 1939, to Vito Adamo and Anna (Moscarelli) Adamo. They preceded him in death.

He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Youngstown, Ohio in 1957.

Mr. Adamo honorably served his country in the United States Army as a tank mechanic from 1958 to 1964.

He was a truck driver for most of his life and during that time was a member of the teamsters.

Mr. Adamo was a founding member of the Road Knights Car Club of Youngstown, Ohio.

Surviving are son and daughter-in-law, William Joseph and Ronda Lynn Adamo of Garrett; a daughter and her companion, Julie Ann Akerman and Karl Schrock of Rome City; a grandson, Sebastian Vito Adamo of Garrett; a grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Jacob Scott and Latisha Akerman of Hicksville, Ohio; a granddaughter, Marisa Lee Akerman of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Josephine and Marty Teutsch of Austintown, Ohio; a brother, Patrick Adams of Austintown, Ohio; and a stepson, Michael Boyer of Caribou, Maine

He was preceded in death by his parents

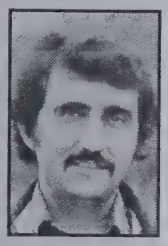
Private memorial services will be held at a later date.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Michael Henry

KENDALLVILLE — Michael Henry, age 61, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at his home.


Mr. Henry

Mr. Henry was born in Kendallville on May 25, 1949, to John D. Henry and Phyllis L. (Skiles) Henry. His mother survives.

He is a graduate of Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Henry honorably served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971 during the Vietnam War.

He worked for Noble County Co-Op in Albion for 13 years and then worked for 20 years at Copperfield in Avilla until 2008.

Mr. Henry was a member of the Kendallville VFW Post 2749.

He adored his family and worked hard for his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed spending time in his yard planting flowers and shrubs and tinkering in his shop. Mr. Henry also enjoyed decorating his house for Christmas and spending time with family and friends during the holidays.

Survivors include his wife, Paula Henry of Kendallville; four daughters, Melissa Henry of Kendallville, Melinda L. and John Delashmit of Waterloo, Miranda Vice of Auburn and Mistia Henry of Kendallville; one son, Michael Henry of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren, Destiny Collins, Elijah Delashmit, Shon Henry, Cassy Henry, Jack Henry, Autumn Vice, Raven Amburgey, Isaac Amburgey, Aryanna Rodenbeck and Madison Howey; his mother, Phyllis L. Nichols of Kendallville; four sisters, Sister Jennifer Henry of Mishawaka, Deborah and Kim Shoup of Angola, Andrea Brand of Kendallville and Mary and Steve Herendeen of Kendallville; three brothers, Daniel and Jozy Nichols of Fort Wayne, Christopher Nichols of Auburn and Scott Henry of Avilla; several nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his father; his stepfather, Donald W. Nichols; and one nephew, Joshua Boots.

A memorial service will be Friday, January 21, 2011, at 1 p.m. at Vinyard Christian Fellowship in Rome City.

Officiating the memorial service will be Pastor Steve Herendeen.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made to Heartland Home Health Care.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Ella Allen

AUBURN — Ella Louise Allen, 68, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Allen

Mrs. Allen worked at Ball Brass and Aluminum Foundry in Auburn for 30 years before retiring in 1995.

She was a member of the Auburn Baptist Church.

She was born Feb. 10, 1942, in Jonesville, Va., to Lee and Lizzy (Barnes) Nida. She married Kenneth G. Allen in 1960 in Jonesville, Va., and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter, Kathy Harris of Maryland; three sons, Jim Allen of Auburn, Ed (Annie) Allen of Hamilton and Ken (Holly) Allen of Auburn; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, John (May) Nida of Pennington Gap, Va.; and three sisters, Pat (James) Miner of Louisville, Ky., Belva (David) Young of Sticklyville, Va., and Nora Fitts of Jonesville, Va.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Bill Nida, Burle Nida and James Robert Nida; and a sister, Annie Ingle.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn with the Rev. Kenny Queener and the Rev. Bill Weaver officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Baptist Church.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Leon Teegardin

ASHLEY — Leon D. Teegardin, 78, of Ashley died Monday, Jan. 17, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Teegardin was a postal carrier in Ashley and Hudson for 30 years. He also owned and operated Poverty Knob Game Farm in Ashley.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran and a 1950 Hamilton High School graduate.

Mr. Teegardin was a Freemason in the Masonic Lodge.

He was born Feb. 5, 1932, in Hamilton to Preston and Lois (Eckert) Teegardin. He married Theresa Palowski in 1982 in Ashley and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Eric Teegardin of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Monique (Mike) Arnold of Seymour; a brother, Owen Teegardin of Auburn; a sister, Gwen (Roger) Baker of Fremont; a brother-in-law Hank Krohn of Hamilton; and several grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Joan Krohn.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Auburn Church of Christ, 18th and Jackson streets, Auburn, with Joe Heins officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Auburn Church of Christ.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to www.fellerandclark.com.

Katelynn Masters

GARRETT — Katelynn Suzanne Masters, infant daughter of Jeremy and Stephanie (Bunn) Masters of Garrett, died Friday, Jan. 14, 2011.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to the family.

Ronald Brown

BUTLER — Ronald K. "Buzz" Brown, 78, of Butler died Thursday, January 20, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

He was born on December 23, 1932, in Paulding County, Ohio, to Theodore and Irene (Doyle) Brown.

Mr. Brown

Ron was a 1950 graduate of Defiance High School and a graduate of Tri-State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Ron retired from the Indiana Department of Transportation as the northeast Indiana area engineer in 2003, after 41 years of service.

He married Nancy Lemons on September 14, 1957, in Bryan, Ohio.

Survivors include his wife Nancy Brown of Butler; three daughters, Marcia (Jerry) Xanders of Syracuse, Indiana, Sherri (Joseph) Sida of Ballwin, Missouri, and Natalie (Josh) Zachrich of Bryan, Ohio; three brothers, Rogel Brown of Okeechobee, Florida, Arnold Brown of Ney, Ohio, and Theodore Brown of Defiance, Ohio; a sister, Barbara Mack of Bruners-burg, Ohio; and four grandchildren, Amanda Xanders, Paul Xanders, Kelsey Sida, and Riley Zachrich.

Funeral services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 -7 at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Fountain Grove Cemetery in Bryan Ohio.

Preferred memorials are to the Butler Library or the donor's choice.

STAR
January 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dorothy Rauh loved helping people

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — Dorothy Mae Rauh devoted her life to her family and to helping others.

"She was a good Christian lady always trying to help others," said her daughter, Judy Lepper of LaOtto.

"My grandma always had time for me and my sisters and brothers," said her granddaughter, Dawn Reichhart of Avilla.

Mrs. Rauh, 100, passed away Dec. 25, 2010, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville. For her devotion to others and volunteerism, Rauh was named the Noble County Senior Volunteer of the Year in 1997.

Raised on a farm with eight brothers and sisters, she graduated from Mongo High School and intended to go to nursing school, an indication at an early age of her desire to help others in need.

"There was not much money around, so she decided that her older sister should go to nursing school instead," recalled Lepper. "Mom went to work as a housekeeper."

Her grandson, Joseph Lepper of LaOtto, remembers when he was growing up, his grandmother was always busy doing something.

"I remember her talking about going places because someone needed help," he said.

Reichhart recalled how her grandmother would take her grandchildren to the Kendallville nutrition site where she volunteered, while she cared for the elderly in their homes and to the 4-H fair, when she went to work at one of the booths.

"I think my grandma loved helping people more than anything except her family," Reichhart said.

Mrs. Rauh welcomed her grandchildren for overnight stays in her home.

"We always had fun at grandma's," said Reichhart. "She would take us to Bixler Lake or the park or blueberry picking. She helped us learn to sew and read. We had fun raking her leaves in the fall."

Reichhart recalls the times when she took her children to visit their great-grandmother Rauh at the Lamplighter in Kendallville. "She always had some treat or trinket that she saved just for them," said Reichhart.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dorthy Rauh, right, with her sister, Vivian Cain.

Mrs. Rauh was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, West Fairfield, near Corunna for more than 70 years. She was a member of the ladies' aid and Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

As nurse's aide for 17 years, she was employed with McCray Memorial Hospital and the Lutheran Home in Kendallville. She transported people to run errands, to go shopping and to doctors' appointments. Through the Noble County Council on Aging, she went on bus trips and encouraged others to take trips.

"Mom got a lot of people to go on trips. You know, it takes someone to get people to go, and she did that," said Judy Lepper. Mrs. Rauh served on the board of directors of the Noble County Council on Aging for more than 15 years.

At the Lamplighter, where she resided for several years, Mrs. Rauh served on the resident advisory board.

She volunteered many hours with various projects in Noble County. At Shepherd of the Hill (Lutheran Life Villages), Mrs. Rauh worked in the gift shop, helped with visitation and assisted with activities. She was involved in a cancer quilt project with middle school students making a quilt for a child at Camp Whacha-Wanna-Do.

Dorothy Rauh was a past member of the Wayne Township Extension Homemakers Club, and she enjoyed sewing and crocheting handmade walker bags, cancer turbans, Crisis Bears for children and lap robes for people who needed them.

On June 23, 1910, in Bronson, Mich., she was born to Chauncy David and Edna Helen (Camp) Shultz. She married Forrest Earl Rauh on June 9, 1937 in St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville. He preceded her in death Nov. 24, 1964.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Judith and Monteal Lepper of LaOtto, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother-in-law.

Mrs. Rauh is buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

"The thing I will always remember about her is her light blue eyes and her smile that told me she was so happy to see me," said Reichhart. "She made people feel that they were very special to her."

STAR
January 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Robert McCallister

BUTLER — Robert T. McCallister, 44, died Friday from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

He was born on May 11, 1966, in Belleville, Ill., to Eugene and Earline (Iler) McCallister.

He served in the Naval Reserve and was employed as a crane operator at Heidtman Steel Sheet Products, Butler.

Mr. McCallister

He married Wendy Strock on Dec. 12, 1997, in Butler. Survivors include his wife, Wendy McCallister; a son, Robert McCallister Jr. of Butler; two daughters, Jennifer and Karri McCallister, both of Granite City, Ill.; two stepsons Colt Fry of Butler and Zach Fry of Fairbanks, Alaska; three brothers, David McCallister of Butler, Eugene (Sherri) McCallister of Granite City and Michael McCallister of Granite City; two sisters, Diane (Mike) Reed of Collinsville, Ill., and Michelle McCallister of Granite City.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Danny McCallister.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the family. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Michael Gabet

BUTLER — Michael A. Gabet, 64, of Butler and formerly of Edgerton, Ohio, died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gabet

He was born Dec. 29, 1946, in Fort Wayne to Arthur A. and Rose (Housel) Gabet. They have both passed away.

Mike was a supervisor at Charleston Metal in Waterloo. He retired in 2009. He loved to fish and work around the yard.

He married Pamela Moulder on April 23, 1965, in Waterloo and she survives in Butler. He is also survived by four daughters and two sons-in-law, Blinda and Steve Freeman of LaOtto, Maria Gabet of Bryan, Ohio, Michele Gabet of Bryan and April and Nate Nickloy of Angola; a brother, Richard Gabet of Butler; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Ann and Jerry Dohner of Butler, Patricia and Charles Miller of Hicksville and Ellen Kelder of Garrett; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Ronald Gabet.

Services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father George Gabet officiating. Calling is Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb County Heart Association.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Matthew Wickliffe

KENDALLVILLE — Matthew K. Wickliffe, 23, of Kendallville died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at 4:26 a.m. at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wickliffe

He was born May 11, 1987, in Auburn to Timothy R. and Laura J. (Benson) Wickliffe, and they survive in Kendallville.

He was a bindery tech at Courier in Kendallville for five years.

He is survived by his parents: Timothy "Tim" and Laura Wickliffe, Kendallville, and two brothers, David J. Mansfield, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Kory Brewer, Garrett. He is also survived by his grandfather: Forest R. Wickliffe, Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

His life will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home by Charlie LaBounty.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Beverly Parsons

AUBURN — Beverly Ann Parsons, 55, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

There will be no services or calling.

Arrangements are by Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson.

Terry Schulz

KENDALLVILLE — Terry L. Schulz, 41, of Kendallville died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Calling will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Mary Clark

GARRETT — Mary Ruth "Chub" Clark, age 82, of Garrett, Ind., died at 7:35 p.m. Sunday, January 23, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Clark

She was born May 27, 1928, in Garrett to the late Don E. and Alice H. (Harsh) Van Fleit.

Chub married Earl D. Clark on September 18, 1948, in Garrett.

She worked as an office manager at the Garrett Telephone Company for more than 35 years before it became GTE.

Chub enjoyed her large family gatherings, Purdue basketball, needlepoint, singing in the church choir, and is famous for her homemade applesauce.

She was a member of the Grabill Missionary Church and acted as trustee for the Garrett United Methodist Church's scholarship fund for future pastors.

She is survived by her husband, Earl D. Clark of Garrett, Ind., and their children, her daughter, Mary Kay Clark, Yellow Springs, Ohio; and three sons, Dave (Robbie) Clark, Brownsburg, Ind., Dan (Laurie) Clark, West Lafayette, Ind., and Jack (Leslie) Clark, Leo, Ind. She is also survived by her sister, A. Katharine "Kate" Kleeman of Garrett, Ind.; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Don E. and Alice H. Van Fleit; two sons, Jimmy and Bruce Clark; two brothers, Dr. William Van Fleit and James Herzer; and two sisters, Betty Gordon and Barbara Painter.

Visitation will be from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 27, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home with Pastor William Lepley officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, Ind.

Memorials are to the Grabill Missionary Church.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Beverly Parsons

AUBURN — Beverly J. Parsons, 55, died Saturday, January 22, 2011, at 11:17 p.m.. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

She was born in Garrett, Indiana, on May 14, 1955, to Homer and Rhea (Dangler) Snyder.

She was a graduate of Prairie Heights High School and retired after 30 years at VDO in Auburn.

Survivors include two sons. Jeremy L. Parsons of Auburn and Scott L. Parsons of Waterloo; one sister, Cindy Snyder of Hudson; two brothers, Bill (Lynn) Snyder of Garrett and Larry (Chris) Snyder of Butler; and three grandchildren, Hailey, Riann and Caleb

There will be no services or calling.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Gloria Rowe

GARRETT — Gloria L. Rowe, 78, of Garrett died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Rowe

Mrs. Rowe was a homemaker.

She recently had been attending The Crossing Nazarene Church in Garrett.

She was born Sept. 23, 1932, in Keene, N.H., to Armand and Sybil (Perkins) Filiault.

Surviving are a son; Stephen Rowe of Fremont; three daughters, Lael Ice of Garrett, Lynn Rowe Reed of Fort Wayne and Judith Rowe of Angola; three brothers, Armand Filiault, Bruce Filiault and Randy Filiault, all of Keene, N.H.; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home with calling 2 hours prior. Officiating will be Pastor Kent Wright.

Memorials are to The Crossing Nazarene Church.

To send a condolence or sign the online guest book, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

STAR
January 25, 2011 Auburn, Indiana

June Haskins

HAMILTON — June K. Fee Haskins, 85, of Hamilton died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Haskins

Mrs. Haskins was the valedictorian of her 1943 graduating class of Hamilton High School. After being out of school for 25 years, she attended the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne where she received her bachelor's degree, master's degree and administrative license. She graduated as valedictorian, summa cum laude, with a 4.0 GPA.

A passionate teacher, she taught 14 years at Pleasant Lake Elementary School. She then became principal for nine years at Pleasant Lake Elementary and later at Hendry Park Elementary of Angola.

A Master Gardener, she was well known for her beautiful flowers and vegetable garden.

She was a lifetime member of the Hamilton United Methodist Church.

She was also an environmental activist for the Hamilton Waste Watchers where she was very instrumental in the fight and closing of the local landfill.

She was born June 20, 1925, in Fort Wayne to Howard and Francis (Kuryvial) Keck. They both preceded her in death. She was raised by C.M. and Myra Barr, and they both preceded her in death.

She married Fred W. Fee on April 17, 1968. He died July 29, 1990. She then married George Haskins Sr. on Nov. 14, 1992, and he survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Ruth Haskins of St. Louis, Mo.; a daughter, Pat Waters of Hamilton; two stepsons and their spouses, George Jr. and Janice Haskins of Auburn, and Terry and Marcia Haskins of Waterloo; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Linda and Dave Rodebaugh of Auburn; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

She was also preceded in death by a son-in-law, Richard Waters; two brothers; and four sisters, including, Henrietta (Barr) Rupple, Marguerite Barr, and Georgeanna (Barr) Blecha.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Hamilton. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, and also from 2-3 p.m. Friday at the Hamilton United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be directed to the Hamilton United Methodist Church.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Lyndia Suntken

AUBURN — Lyndia J. Suntken, 58, of Auburn died Monday at Wesley Health Care Center.

Mrs. Suntken

She was a 1970 graduate of Eastside High School and was employed as a press operator at Air Way Manufacturing of Hamilton.

She was a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church Butler, the Butler Eagles and Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority.

She was born on July 16, 1952 in Garrett to Alfred and Agnes (Beard) Suntken.

Survivors include her parents, Alfred and Agnes Suntken of Butler, two brothers and sister-in-laws, Gerald "Buck" and Laura Suntken of Butler and Michael and Diane Suntken of Auburn; and four nieces, Jennifer Rigby, Becky Casto, Alisa Worden, and Andrea Teeple.

Funeral services will be Friday at 7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Darrol W. Heggen officiating.

Calling will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

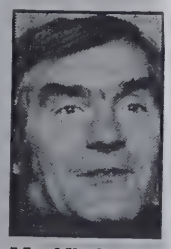
Graveside services will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Butler Cemetery, with a celebration of life gathering to be held afterward at the Butler Eagles.

In lieu of flowers memorials are requested to the family.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Terry Kief

AUBURN — Terry L. Kief, 59, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Kief

Mr. Kief worked for Penland Auto Parts and Salvage of Auburn.

He was born on Oct. 25, 1951, in Kendallville to Darold and Betty (Hahn) Kief. His mother is deceased and his father survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are two sons, David Greene and Michael Greene, both of South Bend; a brother, Richard Kief of Edgerton, Ohio; and three sisters, Roseanne Ludwig of Auburn, Debra Duncan of Auburn and Wanda Henderson of Angola.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Visitation will be two hours prior to the service.

Memorials are to the family.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Edward Walsh

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Edward J. Walsh, 60, of Palm Springs, Calif., and formerly of Indianapolis, died Monday, January 24, 2011, in Palm Springs.

Cremation has taken place. A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memoials are to the American Cancer Society — DeKalb County Chapter.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

John Haiflich Sr.

AUBURN — John W. Haiflich Sr., 85, died Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, at his home in rural Auburn.

Mr. Haiflich

Mr. Haiflich worked as a switchboard operator for the B&O Railroad for 11 years. He later went to work as maintenance supervisor for Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne for 14 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of Meese Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Auburn and served as church superintendent for several years.

He was a volunteer firefighter for the Jackson Township Fire Department for more than 20 years and was very instrumental in getting the fire station built.

He was born May 10, 1925, in Roanoke to Jesse and Edith (Wiser) Haiflich.

He married Marybell Brown on May 14, 1944. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Arkie E. and Clara Haiflich of Auburn, John W. "Bill" Jr. and Debra Haiflich of Auburn, and Stanley D. and Julie Haiflich of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Marilyn J. Carpenter of Auburn, and Nancy K. and Lester Boylan Jr. of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Doris Kummer of Fort Wayne and Rosalie Hamilton of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son-in-law, Philip P. Carpenter; a daughter-in-law, Laurie A. Haiflich; two brothers, Dallas Haiflich and Norman Haiflich; and two sisters, Lucille Swaim and Jennie Krafft.

Glen Hanes

AUBURN — Glenn Deloss Hanes, 91, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Hanes worked as a livestock handler and meat cutter for the Parrott Packing Co. in New Haven. He was also a well known self-employed photographer in Auburn.

He was a member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Auburn and also served on the church scouting committee.

He was born Sept. 27, 1919, DeKalb County to George and Gladys (Berry) Hanes.

He married Naomi Thompson on Feb. 26, 1944. She died Feb. 21, 2010.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Howard and Luanne Hanes of Advance, N.C., David and Janetta Hanes of Auburn, and Jack Hanes of Bowling Green, Ky.; a sister, Nila Hanes of Auburn; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; a daughter-in-law, Pamela Hanes; and a sister, Dorothy Frazee.

A memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, with the Rev Walter Coy officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. Saturday prior to the service at the church.

There will be a private family burial on Saturday at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclarkcom.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. John Erwin officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday and from 1-2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or the Alzheimer's Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Edward Walsh

AUBURN — Edward J. Walsh, age 60, of Palm Springs, Calif., and formerly Indianapolis, Ind., died Monday, January 24, 2011, in Palm Springs.

Ed was born November 12, 1950, in Memphis, Tenn. to Frank J. and Sally J. (Cheek) Walsh and they preceded him in death. Ed worked for Melvin Simon Properties of Indianapolis, Ind., for 20 years, before moving to California

He was a 1968 graduate of DeKalb High School and a 1972 graduate of Indiana University.

He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Cathy and Tom Smith of Auburn, Ind.; three nephews, Todd J. Smith of Syracuse, Ind., Troy D. Smith and his wife Jennifer Zdobylak of Hobart, Ind., and Tyson L. Smith of Indianapolis, Ind.; and a great-nephew, Kyle D. Smith of Hobart, Ind.

Respecting Ed's wishes, cremation has taken place. A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

For those wishing to make a memorial contribution, the family request memorials to the American Cancer Society, DeKalb County Chapter. Cancer was a battle Ed fought twice.

Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, Ind., is in charge of arrangements.

Crash kills Waterloo man

WATERLOO — A Waterloo man died Thursday at 1:30 a.m. when a rollover crash ejected him from his car, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department said.

Cody S. Collin, 23, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash by the DeKalb County coroner, a news release said. The report said Collin died of blunt-force trauma and internal injuries.

Police said Collin was driving southbound in the 3100 block of C.R. 27, just north of C.R. 32, when he drove off the east side of the road. His car went through a wire fence, struck a utility pole and landed on its top in the front yard at 3183 C.R. 27.

Police said Collin was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the car. Rescuers found him lying under the car on the rear passenger side.

DeKalb County Sheriff's Deputy Larry Elzey investigated the crash. County police received assistance from the Auburn Police Department, Waterloo Marshal's Department, Waterloo Fire Department, DeKalb EMS and NIPSCO electric utility.

AN EARLY VERSION *of this story was posted on dekalbstar.com at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.*

Betty Whiteleather

AUBURN — Betty L. Whiteleather, 85, died Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Betty was born June 4, 1925, in Elkhart to George W. and Elizabeth K. (Malloy) Whiteleather. They have both passed away.

She worked in the Tool Room at G.E. in Fort Wayne for 39 years before retiring in 1985. She was a member of the Elex Club.

She loved sports and was active when she was younger in softball and basketball. She played for Gomf's 1952 National Champion Basketball Team.

She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Max and Betty Whiteleather of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Dean Whiteleather.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 30, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne Street, Waterloo. Calling is two hours prior to the service from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Diabetes Association.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
January 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Cecil Whitman

HAMILTON —Cecil D. Whitman, 83, died Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Whitman

He was born on September 24, 1927, in Troy Township, DeKalb County, to Eugene and Bertha (Rosenberry) Whitman.

Cecil worked at Crane Edmund and Rods of Indiana. He also was a retired farmer.

Mr. Whitman has served as the Troy Township trustee for 20 years, retiring this year.

He served in the U. S. Army.

Cecil married Joan L. Rickerd on February 10, 1950, in Butler.

Survivors include his wife, Joan Whitman of Hamilton; a son, Jerry Whitman of Hamilton; two daughters and a son-in-law, Janalee and Terry Ulm of Butler and Sherri Strock of Butler; a brother, Harold Whitman of Bryan, Ohio; a sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Marshall Horn of Lafayette, Indiana; five grandchildren, Vicki and Fred Richmond of Butler, Bruce and Dana Strock of Butler, Lynn Clouse of Missouri, Stacey Whitman of Fort Wayne, and Stephanie Whitman of Butler; four great-grandchildren, Caitlin and Erikka Richmond and Megan and Erin Strock; and two stepgreat-grandchildren, Tyler and Tatiana Richmond.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son-in-law, Jerry Strock; a brother, Vernon Whitman; and a grandson, Scott Whitman.

Memorial services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery at a later date.

Preferred memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association or donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Cody Collin

AUBURN — Cody Stuart Collin, 23, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Collin

Cody was born April 28, 1987, in Fort Kent, Maine.

He was a 2005 graduate of DeKalb High School.

He was a HVAC Tech with Korte Electric in Fort Wayne.

Cody's life had many different passions including playing pool, fishing, rodeos, four wheeling, his truck, anything to do with the outdoors, family, friends, but the main one being the love of his life, Sarah Bush.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Machelle and John Pepple of Waterloo; his father and his spouse, Claude Collin of Fort Kent, Maine; his stepbrother and his fiancee, Jim Pepple and Ashley Parrish of Fort Wayne; three nieces, Zoe, Ava and Lily; his girlfriend, Sarah Bush of St. Joe; his maternal grandmother, Marrietta Stuart of Auburn; his paternal grandmother, Patricia Collin of Fort Kent, Maine; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Donald Stuart, and his paternal grandfather, Yvon Collin.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31, 2011, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Bill Neidhart officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the reciting of the Rosary taking place at 1:45 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Adam Robertson, P.J. Poling, Jim Pepple, Grant Crabtree, Justin Heileman, Nick Grate and B.J. Gipple.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Elvis Lawson

AUBURN — Elvis Mitchel Lawson, 39, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A memorial gathering will be Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Laurence Stayner

BUTLER — Laurence Elmer Stayner, 98, of Butler died Friday, Jan. 28, 2011, at St. Joe Hospice, Fort Wayne.

There are no services or calling.

Midwest Funeral Home and Cremation is handling arrangements.

By the numbers

Rose helped number rural Steuben County addresses

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Ronald Rose, who helped number Steuben County, was known as a community-minded, old-fashioned businessman, a real estate agent and developer.

Mr. Rose, 83, of Angola, died Dec. 4 in Wauchula, Fla.

He was born Dec. 21, 1926, in Angola to Graydon and Wilmet (Aldrich) Rose. On March 17, 1950, he married Barbara Penner Rose, and they celebrated 60 years as husband and wife.

"I worked at Christie's Sweet Shop in Angola as a soda jerk," Barbara said about how they met. "He was a Tri-State student and would come up there."

One of Mr. Rose's daughters, Kathy Aldrich, said she always will remember her father laughing and being fun-loving. That was what she focused on in delivering the eulogy at his funeral service.

"He loved real estate and Steuben County. Railroads fascinated him," Aldrich said. "Dad loved anything with wheels, odd cars and animals. He had a '39 Australian pickup truck. He loved square dancing, and he couldn't dance. That left-right thing was confining."

Aldrich said her dad also raised donkeys and at one time had eight or nine, including a little burro he named Poncho. Aldrich recalled Poncho even pulled a little cart, but one time refused to go across a bridge all the way. Her dad went out and had to finish carrying Poncho across to the other side.

To Craig Rice, owner of Booth-Rose-Krebs Real Estate in Angola, Mr. Rose was a mentor and close friend.

"I've known him a long time. I worked for him from 1984 to retirement," Rice said. "If you had a problem … you could ask him, and he'd tell you a story."

Rice said Mr. Rose was involved in all types of real estate and liked to talk about such transactions. He also developed property in the area,

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Rose

including some around Golden and Jimmerson lakes.

Not very many people know that Mr. Rose and his lifelong friend of 70 years, Ralph Martin, helped number Steuben County, Rice said.

"They numbered the homes and gave everyone an address. Those two old guys — they took an old van and put in an old desk and drove all over (numbering)," Rice said.

"One would drive and the other would run the books," Barbara said about the numbering. "They followed what another county did. They had a lot of fun and went down all those old back roads."

Barbara said it was nothing for Mr. Rose to suddenly leave a family reunion if a potential real estate customer came along. She said he was an old-fashioned businessman who was honest and stood by his word.

Fred Beck, a real estate agent, was a partner with Mr. Rose for two years in Booth-Rose-Krebs Real Estate.

"He was a very honorable person and tried to be fair," Beck said. "It was my honor to be partners with him and the late Jack Andrews."

Mr. Rose was quite active in the community. He was a former member of the Angola Lions Club, the Northeast Indiana Board of Realtors, the Captain Cabin's Screwball Club, NATMUS and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, a Steuben County treasurer of eight years, a Steuben County councilman for eight years, a member of the board of directors at the Angola State Bank, a member of Angola American Legion Post 31, an Angola High School 1944 graduate and a 1948 graduate of Tri-State College in Angola, where he studied business.

Barbara said her husband also enjoyed antique tractors and toys and old cars. He liked to feed the birds two or three times a day, especially when cardinals came to eat at 4 p.m. daily.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

Barbara said Mr. Rose was in his glory when he got to sit in his easy chair surrounded by his family and their white cat, Sherman.

"Sherman still looks for him and sleeps on Grandpa's blanket. I can't wash it, because it has Ron's scent on it," Barbara said.

He survived by this wife, Barbara, of Angola; two daughters Kathy (Greg) Aldrich of Angola and Karen (Jerry) Brown of Wauseon, Ohio; one brother Charles (Donna) Rose of Bluffton, S.C.; two sisters Harriet (Paul) Auginbaugh of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Martha Latson of Angola; five grandchildren: Ronald Aldrich, Brent Aldrich, Sarah Brown, Tom Brown and Mark Brown. He will be missed by his cat, Sherman. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Dean Rose and Duane Rose.

Funeral services were conducted by the Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Military graveside services were conducted by the Angola American Legion Post 31 at Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Memorials may be made to Powers Church and the Steuben County Humane Society.

Wynemia Greer

KENDALLVILLE — Wynemia Joan Greer, 79, formerly of Merriam and recently of Kendallville, died on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mrs. Greer

Mrs. Greer was born in Corunna, Indiana on November 11, 1931 to the late Harold William McDonald and Pauline Dorothy (Welch) McDonald.

She graduated from Waterloo High School in 1947 and married Howard Wilson Greer on September 25, 1948 in Corunna. The Greers lived their entire married life south of Merriam until Howard preceded her in death in June 2002.

Mrs. Greer worked at Blue Bell, maker of Wrangler Jeans, in Columbia City for 15 years. She also worked at Custom Service and Adpak in Cromwell four years.

She was a member of the V.F.W. Post 2749 Women's Auxiliary in Kendallville.

Wynemia enjoyed spending time with her grandkids and baking cookies for them. She loved crocheting and working on crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She also loved gardening and canning, feeding the birds and reading.

Survivors include: daughter, Susan and Dan Weeks of Albion; daughter, Cathy and Mark Weeks of Vicksburg, Michigan; son, Ed and Steph Greer of Churubusco; daughter, JoEllen and Randy Reeve of Albion; son, Jay and Patty Greer of Wawaka; son, John and Tammy Greer of Albion; 17 grandchildren; 32 great grandchildren; and 4 great-great grandchildren; brother, Jim and Betty McDonald of Waterloo; brother, Glenn and Kat McDonald of Corunna; brother, Kenny and Karen McDonald of Kendallville; brother, Lynn and Becky McDonald of Corunna; and sister-in-law, Wava McDonald of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by her son, Jim Greer, who died in November 2008, one grandchildren, Cody Sparks, and a brother, Charles McDonald.

Visitation is today, January 30, 2011 from 1-6 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 South Main Street, Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, January 31, 2011 at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home. Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Scott Pattison. Burial will be at Fairfield Center Cemetery near Corunna.

Preferred memorials may be made to V.F.W. Post 2749.

Casketbearers will be her grandsons: Denver, Jared, James, Bubba, Jody, David, Ben, Andrew, Howard and Jason.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Wynemia by today at www.hitefuneralhome. com or find us on Facebook.com.

Hite Funeral Home, 403 South Main Street, Kendallville, is charge of arrangements.

Opal Reed

AUBURN — Opal M. Reed, 99, of Auburn and formerly a longtime resident of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 11:20 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn, where she was a resident.

Mrs. Reed

Mrs. Reed was employed by the canning factory in Edgerton and retired at the age of 80 from Park View Nursing Center in Edgerton. She was a longtime member of the Edgerton United Methodist Church and was affiliated with the Butler Nazarene Church in Butler. She was an avid card player, especially euchre, and loved working crossword puzzles.

Opal M. Reed was born in Farmer Township of Defiance County, Ohio, the daughter of Richard and Rosetta (Guyse) Singleton. She married Raymond Wilson Reed in 1934 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and he preceded her in death on April 19, 1979.

Mrs. Reed is survived by one daughter, Charlotte Feller of Auburn; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The youngest of nine children, she was also preceded in death by eight brothers and sisters and one son, Wallace Wilson Reed.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio. Services will follow at 1:30 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton.

Derek Griffith

GARRETT — Derek A. Griffith, 29, died Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, in Auburn.

He was born on Feb. 6, 1981, in Auburn. He graduated from the American Motorcycle Institute. Derek formerly worked at National Magnesium foundry.

He is survived by his mother, Yvonne Bowker of Garrett, and two stepbrothers, Nathan Bowker of Butler and Nicholas Bowker of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Galen Bowker, and two sisters, Sarah Bowker and Tara Oberlin.

Calling will be Thursday from 3-5 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Memorials are to the family. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Memorials are requested to DeKalb Memorial Hospital Hospice Care.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.co

Gerald Maldeney

KENDALLVILLE — Gerald R. Maldeney, 86, of Kendallville and formerly of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, at Kendallville Manor Healthcare in Kendallville.

Mr. Maldeney was a lifetime DeKalb County farmer. He also worked for the Eagle Coal Yard for 15 years, and owned and operated the Maldeney Conoco Service Station in Auburn for more than 15 years. He retired in 1987.

Mr. Maldeney

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville.

He was born Jan. 11, 1925, in Monroeville. He married Iva L. Leonard on Sept. 29, 1945, in Monroeville. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are three sons, Terry L. Maldeney of Waterloo, Tyrone R. Maldeney of Auburn, and Tim W. Maldeney of St. Joe; three daughters and sons-in-law, Judy L. Ream of Montague, Mich., Geraldine and Frank Brown of Wolcottville, and Teresa M. and Lonnie Brown of Auburn; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Francis X. Maldeney; mother and stepfather, Thereasa S. (Meunier) and Harry Nestbitt; a daughter, June Ann Maldeney; a son-in-law, Rod P. Ream; a daughter-in-law, Kathy Maldeney; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Francis F. and Helen Maldeney; Cletus E. Maldeney; and Charles and Stella Maldeney; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Agnes and Forrest Sutter, and Ester and Edward Sarrazine.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Bill Neidhart officiating. Calling will be from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday prior to the service. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne.

Calling will also be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Kendallville Manor Healthcare employees, in care of Terry Maldeney.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Kathleen Costanza

ANGOLA — Kathleen Ann "Kathy" Costanza, 58, died at 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011, at Lakeland Nursing Home, Angola.

She was client at Rise Inc. for 40 years and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo.

She was born in Auburn May 28, 1952, to Joseph R. and Thelma (Wilhelm) Costanza. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Jo and Alex Reynolds of Angola; three nephews, Brett and Kim Ritter, Chad and Beth Ritter and Erik Ritter and his companion Heather; and 11 great-nephews and great-nieces.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, David R. Costanza.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord celebrating the Mass.

Burial will be in St. Michael's' Cemetery.

Friends may call at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, on Friday from 4-7 p.m. and one hour prior to the service Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to Rise Inc.

Send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Josiah Seigel

AUBURN — Josiah David Seigel, 9, of Auburn died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011, at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Seigel

He was born April 26, 2001, in Auburn to Jeff and Jennifer Lynne (Bashaw) Seigel.

He was a third-grade student at Country Meadow Elementary School in Ashley.

He attended Soul's Harbor Assembly of God in rural Auburn.

Surviving are his father and stepmother, Jeff and Lyubov Seigel of Auburn; two sisters, Candy Elizabeth Seigel of Auburn, and Joy Lynne Seigel of Auburn; a brother, Michael James Seigel of Auburn; maternal grandparents, Robert N. Bashaw of Tampa, Fla., and Carey Walton of Auburn; and paternal grandparents, James L. and Ann C. Seigel of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jennifer Lynne Seigel on March 31, 2008.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40A, Auburn, with calling from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday at the church. Pastor David Snodderly will be officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to Ronald McDonald House at Riley Hospital for Children, 702 Barnhill Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Gary Culler

ELGIN, Ill. — Gary Culler of Elgin, Ill., and formerly of DeKalb County, Ind., died at his home on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Mr. Culler had spent most of his life in Chicago as an antique dealer. He later retired in Elgin.

He was a graduate of Butler High School and serve four years in the Army.

He was born Feb. 12, 1940, to Roy and Bertha Culler.

He is survived by two sisters, Eileen Ridgway of Auburn and Pat Little of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Wayne and Keith Culler; and a sister, Diana Engle Glaze.

A private family service and burial will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn at a later date.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carolyn Delagrange

HARLAN — Due to the threat of severe weather, the time and date of the memorial service for Carolyn M. "Teddy" Delagrange has been changed.

It will now be held at noon Sunday at Westwood Fellowship Church. Family burial services will be in Woodburn Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family or to the Westwood Fellowship Church for the children's programs.

Mrs. Delagrange died Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, at her home in Harlan.

Arrangements are being handled by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

STAR
February 3 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Gerald Maldeney

KENDALLVILLE — Due to the severe weather, the date of the service for Gerald R. Maldeney has been changed.

It now will take place today at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Bill Neidhart officiating.

Calling will be from 9-10 a.m. today at the church. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne.

Memorials may be directed to the Kendallville Manor Healthcare employees in care of Terry Maldeney.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Leon Bowers

HAMILTON — Leon C. Bowers, 80, of Hamilton died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Leon retired from Amcast and was a parttime farmer and auctioneer at Hamilton Real Estate.

He graduated from Waterloo High School and served in the Army during the Korean conflict at Panama City, Panama.

Mr. Bowers was a lifelong member of the Hamilton Fish and Game Club.

He was born on July 19, 1930, in rural Waterloo to Winn and Helen (Jennings) Bowers. He married Kathryn Meyer on Oct. 21, 1971. She preceded in death Jan. 11, 2006.

Surviving are three sons, Daryl Bowers of Soldotna, Alaska, Dan (Terri) Bowers of Goshen, and Mike (Deb) Meyer of Hamilton; two daughters, Amy (Brian) Dutkiewicz of Auburn and Kathy (Ron) Vanover of Noblesville, Ind.; two brothers, Loren (Mabel) Bowers of Fillmore, Calif., and Lyle (Margot) Bowers of Auburn; a sister, Virginia (Everett) Freed of Waterloo; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Alan Bowers.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be from 1-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery with military honors.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Dorothy Hilkey

AVILLA — Dorothy E. Hilkey, 97, of Avilla and formerly of Garrett and Auburn died Friday Feb. 4, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Hilkey managed the Sterns Women's Apparel Store in Garrett for 15 years.

She was a former member of First Presbyterian Church in Garrett.

She was born in Lakeview, Ohio, on Aug. 16, 1913, to George and Effie (Killough) Kennedy. She married Paul Shilling Hilkey on Dec. 26, 1931, in Auburn. He died March 29, 1990.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy Jane and Michael Reese of San Antonio, Texas; two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Tori Hilkey of Auburn and Douglas and Kay Hilkey of Hudson; a brother, William Kennedy of Waterloo; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Mary Louise Wappes and Margie Ann Hilkey; two grandsons, Michael Reese and Duane Hilkey; a brother, Donald Kennedy; and three sisters, Eva Clark, Mabel Ritchinson and Vivian Helbert.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Tom Novy officiating.

Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Provena Sacred Heart Home or the American Cancer Society.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Clayton Crowl

WATERLOO — Clayton K. Crowl, 84, of Waterloo died Friday Feb. 4, 2011, at his home in Waterloo.

He was born July 31, 1926, in Waterloo to the late Edward and Bertha (Clark) Crowl.

Clayton was a WWII U.S. Army veteran.

He worked at International Harvester for 16 years, Foley Pattern for 5 years and Auburn Foundry for 22 years retiring in 1989.

Mr. Crowl

He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and a lifetime member of the Waterloo VFW.

Clayton married Juanita Krontz on July 7, 1948, in Waterloo and she survives.

He is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, James Edward and Judith Crowl of Waterloo; 2 grandsons, Keith Richard Crowl and his wife, Melissa, of Auburn and Kevin Ward Crowl and his wife, Kirsten, of Fort Wayne; a great-granddaughter, Danielle Kaylynn Crowl; a brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Nikki Crowl of Butler; a sister, Willidene Millspaugh of Auburn; and a sister-in-law, Delores Crowl of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, George Crowl.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo with the Rev David Mathews officiating.

Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

To view an obituary or send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

David Dilley

WATERLOO — David E. Dilley, 75, of Waterloo, after battling cancer for ten months, was called home by our Lord on Friday February 4, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Dilley

David was born March 4, 1935, in Waterloo to the late George L. and Wilda C (Blue) Dilley.

David farmed for 60 years and also worked for a few years for Key Plastics.

He served for 8 years in the Navy Reserve.

He was a member of New Hope Christian Center where he served the church as a Deacon. He was a board member of DeKalb Financial Credit Union for 30 years, Farm Bureau member since 1957, Smithfield Township Advisory board member since 1976 and was a member of Farm Service Agency.

David married Judy A. Duncan on August 4, 1957, in Waterloo and she survives.

He is also survived by 3 sons and daughters-in-law, Rev. Tim E. and Deb Dilley of Portland, Dennis J. and Dawn Dilley of Kendallville and Robert A. and Wanda Dilley of Ashley; seven grandchildren, Kimberly Mouton, Rebekkah Dilley, Phillip Dilley, Carolynn Carteaux, Joshua Dilley, Kristen Dilley and Benjamin Dilley; 3 brothers and 3 sisters, Kathleen Miller of Vancouver, Wash., Martha (Rev. Jerry) Hancuff of Kelsco, Wash., Karen (Lee) Adkison of Auburn, Carl (Norma) Dilley of Ashley, Rev. Gilbert (Karon) Dilley of Auburn and John (Jan) Dilley of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Thomas D. Dilley.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, February 7, 2011, at New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, Ind, and also 1 hour prior to the service Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials can be directed to New Hope Christian Center or Youth for Christ.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Good guys always wear white hats

Martin Endsley Jr. cared for patients, even prisoners

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Martin Endsley Jr. was a man who loved everyone, no matter who they were, said his daughter, Susan Endsley of Auburn.

She remembers her father getting close to two neighbor children, taking them under his wing and calling them his own on many occasions.

"That is how he thought of them — as his own children," Susan said.

Mr. Endsley, 77, of Auburn died Nov. 11, 2010, at Lutheran Life Villages.

Susan Endsley recalled the time her father coached the Angels, an all-African-American baseball team of 9-year-olds.

"This was during the time of segregation," she said. "But everyone was equal to him, he loved everyone, gave anyone a second chance, and he always rooted for the underdog."

Endsley's granddaughter, KayCee Pepple, remembers that spirit of love and tolerance being passed down from her grandfather.

"He would say, 'Why would it even matter what color someone's skin is?'" Pepple said. Both Susan Endsley and Pepple agree that Martin Endsley was ahead of his time.

Born in 1933 to Cecil and Woneda Endsley, Martin Endsley grew up in Marion, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and sports. He shared those passions with his children and grandchildren, his daughter said.

Endsley received his first rifle around age 9 after showing his father that he was responsible and safety-conscious. He grew up hunting squirrels, rabbits and even snakes. Susan said every one of Endsley's children learned how to hunt, and how to clean their kill.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Martin Endsley Jr. holds his last grandson, Drew. Endsley could frequently be seen wearing a white hat, because he believed the good guys always wore white hats.

"We never asked what we were having for dinner," Susan Endsley said. "We just knew it would taste like chicken." She said she can remember her dad's truck, full of hunting and fishing gear so that he could just take off into the wilderness and enjoy himself. She said she remembers him coming home, dropping his kill outside of the door and paying his kids a penny to skin the carcass for dinner.

"He was a hunter all of his life," Susan Endsley said.

When he wasn't hunting, she said, her father was working.

"He was a workaholic," Pepple said. After being drafted into the Army and serving two years in France during the Korean conflict, he signed on with the National Guard, earning full military honors and reaching the rank of sergeant.

Susan said during the war, her father was placed in charge of guarding Korean prisoners, and he would slip them cigarettes while they cursed him in their native tongue.

"He said he tried to treat them like humans, even though they would have killed him if he didn't watch out," Susan Endsley said. It was that compassion that everyone loved about Martin Endsley.

After the war, Martin worked as a respiratory technician at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Marion before transferring to the VA in Fort Wayne. He moved his family to Garrett and often worked two jobs to make ends meet. After working at the VA for four decades, he switched jobs to work at the Irene Byron Health Center, where he administered tuberculosis vaccinations before catching the disease himself. He spent 10 months in the hospital recovering.

His passion to help people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction was the impetus behind the creation of the center's drug rehabilitation center.

"He couldn't stand to see people battle with drugs," Susan remembered. Her father worked at the center for a while, before working for Our Friends and Neighbors for 10 years.

Susan Endsley said that to people in Marion, her father was a real-life hero, risking his own life to try saving a neighbor when her house caught fire.

"He could hear her screaming, so he crawled into the house," Susan said. The woman was unable to be saved, and Martin Endsley almost died himself in the rescue attempt. When he finally emerged, Susan said, his lungs were filled with smoke. The incident haunted him for the rest of his life, she said.

Susan said she likes to remember her father by thinking of him in a white hat, because he used to say, "Good guys always wear white hats."

Max Zehner

AUBURN — Max Eugene Zehner, 10 weeks old, died Friday Feb. 4, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Nov. 27, 2010, in Auburn to Matthew and Sarah (Trubey) Zehner of Auburn and they survive.

Also surviving are a sister and a brother, Jada Zehner and Corbin Zehner; grandparents, Denny and Patti Trubey of Garrett, Lisa Zehner of Auburn and Kurt Zehner and Juanita Meddelin of Auburn; and great-grandparents, Max and Linda Trubey of Waterloo, Peg Zehner of Auburn, Dick and Patti Reichard of Auburn, John Cain of Arizona and Lloyd Smith of Laurel, Miss.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at fellerandclark.com.

Betty DeLucenay

AUBURN — Betty Joyce DeLucenay, 80, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at her home in Auburn surrounded by her family.

Mrs. DeLucenay

Mrs. DeLucenay was born Sept. 30, 1930, in Nocatee, Fla., to William and Aleph (Nipper) Smith.

She was a 1952 graduate of Orange Memorial School of Nursing in Orlando, Fla.

She was a registered nurse working for the Souder Hospital from 1956-1964, DeKalb Memorial Hospital from 1972-1983, and then the Garrett Clinic starting in 1984, until her retirement in 1995.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She married Glen Abraham DeLucenay on July 24, 1954, in the St. Margaret Mary Church in Winter Park, Florida. He died Dec. 6, 2010.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Michael G. and Julie DeLucenay of Syracuse; four daughters and sons-in-law, Cheryl (DeLucenay) and Bill Walker of Huntington, Sue (DeLucenay) and Gary Amerman of Auburn, Kimberly (DeLucenay) and Greg Raub of Auburn, and Kelly DeLucenay of Auburn; two sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Sue Smith of Arcadia, Florida, and Shirley and Ed Green of Butler, Pennsylvania; five grandchildren, David Amerman, Adam DeLucenay, Ashley DeLucenay, Nicholas Raub and Lucas Raub; and three great-grandchildren, Landin Amerman, Dawson Amerman, and Justin Stucker.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a brother, Marvin Smith; and a sister, Wilma Smith.

A Mass of Christian burial will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday prior to the service. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the rosary being recited at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials are directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, or masses to the church.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Catherine Cunningham

BUTLER — Catherine Elizabeth Cunningham, 93, died Saturday Feb. 5, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born in Bainbridge, Ohio, on Feb. 23, 1917, to Vinton O. and Blanche F. (Stultz) Drew.

She worked for the U.S. National Forest Service in California for 25 years.

Catherine has one surviving sister, Mavis Ritchie of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; Jim Minor and Gordon Cunningham; a sister Nancy Stuller; and three brothers Simeon P. Drew, William R. Drew and Kenneth Drew.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 9, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo. Calling is two hours prior to the service from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

To leave condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Bugert

LAOTTO —Robert "Bob" Michael Bugert, 72, of LaOtto died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

No services are planned.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society for research.

Patricia Bartell

ST. JOE — Patricia A. Bartell, 73, died Monday, February. 7, 2011, at her home.

She was born on December 22, 1937, in Troy Township to Arthur and Virginia (Albaugh) Sawvel. Pat married Martin S. Bartell on January 21, 1960, at Bull Rapids Church in Woodburn.

He preceded in death on April 11, 2010.

Surviving are three sons, Mark (Laura) Bartell of Fort Wayne, Jeff Bartell of St. Joe, and Arthur Bartell of Auburn; a daughter, Sara (John) Bennett of Waterloo; six grandchildren, Dawn (Dave) Scheessele, Dean Bartell, Logan Bartell, Spencer Bartell, Caszandria Bennett and Elisa Bennett; three great-grandchildren, Grant and Graham Scheessele and Ethan Bartell; and a sister-in-law, Rita Sawvel of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers Walter Sawvel and William Sawvel; and a sister, Betty Fee.

Funeral services will be Friday, February 11, 2011, at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Joe, with Pastor Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be Eddy Cemetery.

Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to services.

Preferred memorials are to the church or the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Helen Stark

AUBURN — Helen Kathryn Stark, 86, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Stark

Mrs. Stark had worked as a beauty operator in Albion.

She was a member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Auburn. She was also a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star Prentiss Chapter 178, and the Charm and Chatter Home Economics Club.

She was born Dec. 4, 1924, in Albion to Archie and Berniece (Neufer) Bortner. She married Jack Stark on June 15, 1947, in Albion. He died March 9, 2006.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Becky A. and Allen R. Wilmes of Auburn; and a granddaughter and her husband, Katrina and Christopher Koehler of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a grandson, Mark Allen Wilmes; and two brothers, Max Bortner and Howard Bortner.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with calling from 10-11 a.m. Friday prior to the service. The Rev. Walter Coy will be officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Carson Reinoehl

GARRETT — Carson L. Reinoehl, 58, of Garrett died at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at his residence.

Mr. Reinoehl

Mr. Reinoehl worked at Bohn Aluminum for 34 years.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

He was born April 12, 1952 in Garrett to Bill and Leola "Susie" (Sechler) Reinoehl. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two sons, Shawn Reinoehl and Joshua Reinoehl, both of Garrett; a brother Roger "Rocky" (Pam) Reinoehl of Garrett; a sister, Jackie Schultis of Garrett; and his former wife Sharon Woods of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Michael Reinoehl.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Garrett, with a gathering of friends and family from 2-3 p.m.

Officiating will be Rev. David Mix.

Burial will take place at a later date.

Memorials are to the family.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence or sign the online guest book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Deborah Moore

GARRETT — Deborah Ann Moore, 51 of Garrett, died on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born July 17, 1959, in Florence, Ala., to Kenneth and Karen (Neireiter) Steele and they survive in Fort Wayne. She graduated from North Side High School in 1977.

She married Dale E. Moore on April 8, 1978, in Fort Wayne and he survives in Garrett.

Also surviving is a son, Stephen (Elizabeth) Moore of Altona; a brother, Kenneth Jr. (Julie) Moore of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Cressie (Scott) Golden of Waterloo, Iowa, and Kathleen (Donald) Moore of Morrisville, N.C.; four grandchildren, Spencer, Hope, Hunter and Logan Moore of Altona; and her mother in-law, Joyce Moore of Fort Wayne.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 1 p.m. at The Church at Garrett, 1370 S. Randolph St., with Pastor Joe Gutierez officiating, with calling starting at 12:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the family.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

To send a condolence or sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Mary Stuckey

SPENCERVILLE — Mary E. Stuckey, 92, died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 5-8 p.m. Friday at North Leo Mennonite Church, 154 19 S.R. 1, Leo.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Private family burial in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorials are to North Leo Mennonite Church, P.O. Box 213, Leo, IN 46765 or to the Sarasota Christian School, 5415 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL 34232.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is in charge of arrangements.

Harriett McQuown

AUBURN — Harriett D. McQuown, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, February 10, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Harriett was born March 12, 1926, in Garrett to Walter E. and Mable (Cashbaugh) Saxer.

She worked for Messinger/Renasaince Corporation in Auburn for 25 years before retiring in 1988.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

She married John L. McQuown on May 29, 1947, in the Garrett Presbyterian Church and he survives in Auburn.

She is also survived by a son, Thomas McQuown of San Francisco, Calif.; two daughters, Cynthia Ann Shepard of Fort Wayne and Carolyn Sue McQown of Monrovia, Calif.; four grandchildren, Duane E. Baughman Jr., Tonya K. Heiniger, Katrina D. Calderwood and Megan L. Woodcraft; seven great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandson; a brother, Robert Saxer of Terre Haute; and a sister, Thelma Ringenberg of Auburn.

Harriett was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and three sisters.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the Auburn Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

The family will receive friends from 9 to 10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials can be directed to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Deborah Moore

GARRETT — Deborah Ann Moore, 51, of Garrett, died on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born July 17, 1959, in Florence, Ala., to Kenneth and Karen (Neireiter) Steele and they survive in Fort Wayne. She graduated from North Side High School in 1977.

She married Dale E. Moore on April 8, 1978, in Fort Wayne and he survives in Garrett.

Also surviving is a son, Stephen (Elizabeth) Moore of Altona; a brother, Kenneth Jr. (Julie) Steele of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Cressie (Scott) Golden of Waterloo, Iowa, and Kathleen (Donald) Moore of Morrisville, N.C.; four grandchildren, Spencer, Faith, Hunter and Logan Moore of Altona; and her mother in-law, Joyce Moore of Fort Wayne.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 1 p.m. at The Church at Garrett, 1370 S. Randolph St., with Pastor Joe Gutierez officiating, with calling starting at 12:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the family.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

To send a condolence or sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Carol McMaken

BUTLER — Carol L. McMaken, 70, died Thursday at her home surrounded by her family.

Mrs. McMaken

Mrs. McMaken had worked for Universal Tool and Stamping, DeKalb Eastern Community School Corp., Evans Equipment, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and Dollar General.

Mrs. McMaken was a member of Auburn Women's Bowling Association, serving on its board of directors, Friday Night National Leagues, WBA Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Butler Eagles 2733 Women's Auxiliary, and Phythian Sisters Ruth Temple 56.

She was born July 8, 1940, in Lewisburg, Ind., to Jesse and Victoria O. (Fisher) Baker. She married Howard J. McMaken on Feb. 27, 1970, in St. Joe. He preceded in death on Oct. 31, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Victoria and Rex Bergdall of Butler and Lori McMaken and Matt Greenwalt of Auburn; a son, Terry and Karen McMaken of Butler; four stepdaughters, Pamela and Tim Tharp of Pampa, Idaho, Cheryl and Jim Gilbert of Corunna, Teresa McMaken of Butler, and Sandra and Paul Price of St. Petersburg, Fla.; six grandchildren; 17 stepgrandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and 11 stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Kelly Gene; two brothers, Carl Baker and Darl Baker; a sister Mary Price; a grandson, Dennis Collins; and a stepgrandson, Ryan Gilbert.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Steven Kummernuss and Craig Johnson officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe. Pallbearers will be Cory Wishler, Colton McMaken, Grant McMaken, Phillip Collins, Jonny Logsden, Eric Hopkins, Ray Reddig and Steven Howe.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home, with a Phythian Sisters service at 6:45 p.m. and an Eagles service at 7 p.m.

Memorials are to DeKalb Hospice or Cancer Services.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

E. Emmogean Burrell

ANGOLA — E. Emmogean Burrell, 88, of Angola died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Burrell was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Angola Christian Church and its Homemakers Circle.

Mrs. Burrell was also a member of the RSVP, Kum-As-U-R Home Economics Club, Sugar & Spice Club of Pleasant Lake, Angola Women of the Moose and the Mother of Twins Club.

She was born Jan. 28, 1923, in Stafford Township, DeKalb County, to Asa Alvin and Olive "Ollie" (Vandervort) Holman. They are deceased.

She married Charles Burrell on May 2, 1942. He preceded her in death April 17, 1962.

Surviving are a son, Donald (Margie) Burrell of Angola; three daughters, Rita (Pete) Thompson of Fremont, Nita (Robert) Tadsen of Angola and Lelia (Greg) Kleiner of Wildwood, Mo.; 12 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Aaron Holman and Loren Holman; and two grandchildren, Ryan Kleiner and Neal Burrell.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with the Rev. Darold Beck officiating. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery in Steuben County.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital or the Angola Chapter of RSVP.

Sign a guest book at www.weichtfh.com.

Harriett McQuown

AUBURN — Harriett D. McQuown, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, February 10, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Harriett was born March 12, 1926, in Garrett to Walter E. and Mable (Cashbaugh) Saxer.

She worked for Messinger/Renasaince Corporation in Auburn for 25 years before retiring in 1988.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

She married John L. McQuown on May 29, 1947, in the Garrett Presbyterian Church and he survives in Auburn.

She is also survived by a son, Thomas McQuown of San Francisco, Calif.; two daughters, Cynthia Ann Shephard of Fort Wayne and Carolyn Sue McQuown of Monrovia, Calif.; four grandchildren, Duane E. Baughman Jr., Tonya K. Heiniger, Katrina D. Calderwood and Megan L. Woodcraft; seven great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandson; a brother, Robert Saxer of Terre Haute; and a sister, Thelma Ringenberg of Auburn.

Harriett was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and three sisters.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. today, Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the Auburn Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

The family will receive friends from 9 to 10 a.m. today at the church.

Memorials can be directed to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ruth Yarlot

WATERLOO — Ruth E. Yarlot, 96, of Waterloo died Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Yarlot was a registered nurse. She was a graduate of St. Joe Hospital Nursing School and worked for Dr. Cartwright for several years. She retired from DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo.

She was born Dec. 10, 1914, in Franklin Township in DeKalb County to Manuel and Anna (Miller) Miller. She married Loren M. Yarlot on May 17, 1941, in St. Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne and he died March 26, 2004.

Surviving are a son, Mark E. (Janet) Yarlot of Pehachapi, Calif.; two daughters, Susan M. (Charles) Crowl of Hamilton and Alice A. (Thomas) Swift of Waterloo; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a brother, Lathan Miller; and three sisters, Dehea Masten, Helen Walker and Ethel Bender.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo and also one hour prior to the service. A Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to St. Michael's Catholic Church. To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Savilla Treesh

WATERLOO — Savilla E. Treesh, 90, died Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Treesh was a homemaker.

She was a past member of the Auburn Women of the Moose and a past member of the Kendallville Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born Aug. 7, 1920, to Lewis and Ida (Tillitson) Crossley. She married Elden G. Treesh on Nov. 5, 1942, in Garrett and he passed away Dec. 15, 2001.

Surviving are two sons, Clarence Eldon (Sheila) Treesh of Kendallville and Max Edward (Linda) Treesh of Auburn; two daughters, Geraldine Smith of Auburn and Janet (James) Higgins of Waterloo; 10 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; seven stepgreat-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-great-grandchild.

She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Kimberly Baisden, and a great-grandson, Chad Allen Patrick.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, with the Rev Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the American Heart Association.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Gregory Voirol

WATERLOO — Gregory B. Voirol, 88, of Waterloo died Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Voirol retired from National Plastics in Fort Wayne after over 30 years of service.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army serving Dec. 30, 1942, to Jan. 6, 1946.

Mr. Voirol

He was a volunteer fireman for the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years. He was an avid woodcarver and made and designed various things, including his own clocks. He enjoyed making replica cars, trucks, and tractors out of wood and steel. He also enjoyed working as a mechanic in his spare time.

He was born Nov. 6, 1922, in Payne, Ohio, to Herman J. and Hazel (Cook) Voirol.

He married Mary Louise Landers on March 11, 1946, in Ligonier. She passed away Dec. 16, 1994.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tresa L. and Bruce Bishop of Corunna; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kelly "Joe" Voirol of Angola, and George A. and Karen Voirol of Angola; a sister, W. Marie Crago of Star, Idaho; eight grandchildren, Chuck Mosley, Chris Mosley, Terri Kinney, Brian Voirol, Autumn Voirol, Adam Voirol, Josh Voirol, and Chandra Voirol; seven great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Louise Carver of Kendallville.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife; a son, Gregory L. Voirol; a brother, Herman J. Voirol; a sister, Virginia Hatcher; and two grandchildren, Erika Ann Voirol, and Johnathan Voirol.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with calling from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday prior to the service. Pastor Sam Weimer will be officiating. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in Corunna with Military graveside services being conducted by the U. S. Army.

Calling will also be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Mary Hornbacker

AUBURN — Mary Harriet Hornbacker, 93, died Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was born in Danville, Ill. on November 18, 1917, to Buell and Carolyn (English) Snyder.

Mary Harriet was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church. She was a 1939 graduate of DePauw University. She was a volunteer at the Eckhart Public Library and was a member of various clubs and organizations including the Auburn Garden Club, PEO, Auburn Ladies Literary Club, Red Hat Society, Friends of the Library and Kappa Kappa Gamma.

She married Dr. W. V. Hornbacker on Aug. 3, 1946, in Danville, Ill. and he passed away July 6, 1992.

She survived by four sons: Timothy B. (Tara) Hornbacker of New Paris, Ohio; Terry E. (Georgia) Hornbacker of Sherman, Ill.; Doug V. (Nurit) Hornbacker of Fayetteville, NY; and David (Kristy) Hornbacker of Auburn; four grandchildren: Trent Hornbacker, Chris Hornbacker, Brian Hornbacker and Tasha Hornbacker and two great-granddaughters Haylee and Chloe Hornbacker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two brothers Carroll E. Snyder and Buell Snyder.

Services will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn with Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 3 p.m. until the service at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Eckhart Public Library or Auburn Presbyterian Church. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Greta Quinn

AUBURN — Greta L. Quinn, 96, of Auburn, died Wednesday February 9, 2011 at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Quinn

She was born July 9, 1914, in Fort Wayne and was the daughter of the late Fred and Amelia (Dannenfelser) Doehrman. Growing up in Fort Wayne, she attended Saint Paul's Lutheran School and was a graduate of North Side High School.

She married George E. Quinn on July 4, 1942 in Fort Wayne and he preceded her in death in 1992.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Quinn moved to Auburn where she joined Trinity Lutheran Church and volunteered until she was 90 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and R.S.V.P.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Phil Allison of Auburn; sister, Francile Firestine of Fort Wayne; granddaughter, Mary Beth (Keith) Williams of Tuscaloosa, AL; grandsons, Stuart (Megan) Allison of Millersville, MD and Thomas (Nicole) Allison of Danville; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be Saturday February 19, 2011 at 11 a.m. with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Private burial be in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Fort Wayne.

Memorials may be made to DeKalb Memorial Hospital Foundation or Trinity Lutheran Church. To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

STAR
February 2011 Auburn, Indiana
13

Haskins loved teaching, environment

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Described as a woman with a strong character, June K. Fee Haskins was a force to be reckoned with, according to her family and friends.

Haskins, 85, died Jan. 23 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born June 20, 1925, in Fort Wayne to Howard and Francis Keck. After the death of her mother when she was around 4 years old, her father was not economically prepared to take care of a child on his own. The girl moved to Hamilton to live with the Barr family, who raised her.

Haskins' children said their mother's humble beginnings surely strengthened her character, along with her devout faith.

"She was a strong woman of faith," said her daughter, Pat Waters. "She always persevered."

Haskins married right out of high school during World War II, and the family welcomed two children, Waters and her brother, James Haskins.

Waters said her mother was devoted to her family, and she always loved children. She enjoyed serving as a Sunday school and Bible school teacher.

"She was always trying to help other people," Waters said.

When Haskins' husband left the family after 25 years, she was faced with yet another challenge — supporting the family on her own.

"I don't think she ever had any fear in her life," James Haskins said. "I think she had periods of being afraid, but the word 'fear' never really came out of her mouth."

June Haskins decided to go to college at night to become a teacher. She attended Saint Francis University in Fort Wayne, acquiring her bachelor's degree, master's degree and administrative license. She graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade-point average.

As a teacher and principal at Pleasant Lake Elementary School and principal at Hendry Park Elementary School in Angola, Haskins had a knack for teaching.

"She could have done a lot of things when she went back to college, but she wanted to be a teacher," Waters said. She was amazed at the large number of students who attended her mother's viewing. Many of them recalled Haskins as their favorite teacher or spoke of the deep impact she had on their lives.

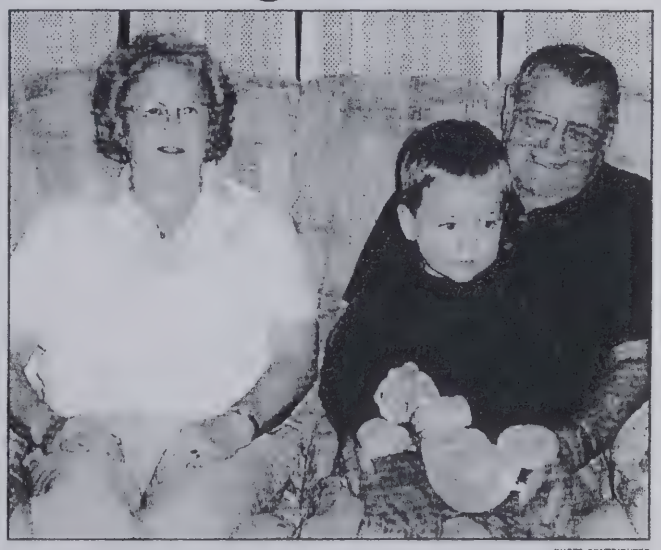


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

June Haskins and her husband, George, visit with their great-grandson, Benjamin.

"It was quite a testament to her teaching," Waters said. Haskins also had a way of inspiring teachers, which made her a great principal, she said.

"She wanted teachers to be better teachers and spark the joy of learning in all kids," Waters said. She challenged children to think about how things worked, and she encouraged other teachers to do the same.

Haskins married Fred Fee in 1968, and they enjoyed a life together while Haskins took up a fight against the local landfill. According to Haskins' longtime friend, Colleen Hake-Boyd, Haskins loved everything about the environment and didn't want to see it damaged by the landfill.

"June lived about a mile from the landfill, and she noticed a lot of violations going on," Hake-Boyd said. Haskins was instrumental in forming Steuben County Waste Watchers to stop the landfill from polluting Fish Creek and the environment.

"She was educated enough to know about the dangers, and she didn't want to see people in the area affected by the landfill," Hake-Boyd said. Haskins' extreme intelligence and love of research made the difference in the landfill fight, Hake-Boyd said.

"We dealt with a lot of lawyers (while fighting the landfill), and June knew the legal terminology and beat them at their own game," Hake-Boyd said. "She was Hamilton's Erin Brockovich, protecting the environment and the countryscape."

James Haskins agreed. He said there was no fight too big for his mother to take on.

"She didn't care who you were, how much money you had, or how intimidating you were," James Haskins said. "She knew how to choose her battles." The landfill is no longer in operation.

When she wasn't advocating for the environment, Haskins was basking in it. George Haskins, her third husband, said Mrs. Haskins enjoyed the outdoors and was a master gardener, growing fruits, vegetables and flowers. She prized her giant red, yellow and white roses, he said.

She was an excellent cook, James Haskins added, cooking in the kitchen even in her 80s.

But what George Haskins said he will remember most about his wife is her humbleness and willingness to help anyone in need.

"She did a lot of things for a lot of people, and she wouldn't ever take anything for it," he said. "She was good at helping, and she helped as much as she could."

Ina Kitchen

BUTLER — Ina R. Kitchen, 83, died Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011.

She was born on March 10, 1927, in Butler to Harrison and Nora (Cook) Norrick. Ina was a graduate of Butler High School and was a homemaker. Ina was a member of the Pythian Sisters 56 Auburn. She married Paul E. Kitchen on May 24, 1947; he preceded in death on Dec. 31, 2007.

Mrs. Kitchen

Survivors include four sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Deb Kitchen of Matthews, N.C., Roger and Judy Kitchen of Hamilton, Rick and Deb Kitchen of Nashville, Tenn., and Rodney and Kelley Kitchen of Hamilton; a sister, Hulda Libey of Angola; seven grandchildren, Drew Kitchen, Abby Relue, Cory Kitchen, Brennen Kitchen, Ashley Kitchen, Sierra Kitchen and Colten Kitchen; and six great-grandchildren, Karsyn Kitchen, Kendal Kitchen, Evie Relue, Teddy Relue, Jayci Kitchen, and Lucy Kitchen.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Frank Norrick; and two sisters, Mary Morrow and Pauline Burkmire.

Funeral services are Wednesday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. Calling will be Tuesday at the funeral home from 2-7 p.m. A Pythian Sisters service will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Memorials are to DeKalb Hospice or the Pythian Sisters.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Gabriella Thacker

AUBURN — Gabriella Annette Thacker was stillborn Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne to Renwood Allen and Marci Annette (Carper) Thacker.

Surviving are her parents, Renwood and Marci Thacker of Auburn; her twin brother, Rallen Michael Thacker of Auburn; her maternal grandparents, Steve and Janet Carper of Fort Wayne; her paternal grandparents, Paul Thacker of Garrett and Sharon Dillard of Wabash; her maternal great-grandfather, Arthur Carper of Pleasant Lake; and her paternal great-grandmother, Pat Bruning of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her maternal great-grandparents, Kathryn Carper and Dorsey and Viola Sowles; and her paternal great-grandparents, Allen Thacker and Renwood Bruning.

Services will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Bill Lyne officiating. A private family burial will be Friday in Roselawn Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-6:30 p.m. Thursday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Riley Hospital for Children, 702 Barnhill Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ruth McClellan

AUBURN — Ruth Deloris McClellan, age 83, of Auburn died on Sunday, February 13, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. McClellan was born in Kendallville on August 25, 1927, to Robert G. and Elsie May (Newman) Strater.

She graduated from Kendallville High School in 1946.

Mrs. McClellan

She married DeWayne C. McClellan on June 2, 1951, in Angola. He preceded her in death on May 23, 2007.

Mrs. McClellan was the cafeteria manager for DeKalb Central Schools for 18 years, retiring in 1994.

She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in Waterloo where she taught Sunday School and was a member of the Women's Mission Circle.

Mrs. McClellan was a member of the Fairfield Ladies Club and was a Girl Scout and Brownie leader in DeKalb County for several years.

She also enjoyed gardening with her neighbor Odelia Shepherd.

She liked traveling with her husband to Branson and Nashville for country music shows.

Survivors include a son, Dennis and Jane McClellan of Rome City; three daughters, Delores and Chad Kilgore of Auburn, Delsie and Keith Harmes of Waterloo and Deanna and John Mohre of Auburn; a second son, Bob Kessler of Auburn; nine grandchildren, Amber McClellan, Quartz McClellan, Berell McClellan, Danelle Yarian, Jennifer Hathaway, Tonia Haskins, Dustin Harmes, Justin Harmes and Spencer Mohre; seven great-grandchildren, Johnathan Sewell, Iris Sewell, Caleigh Yarian, Keagen Yarian, Weber Yarian, Ella Hathaway and Jayde Haskins; one brother, Robert and Marie Strater of Kendallville; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and four brothers, Hollie Strater, Fred Strater, Warren Strater and Donald Strater.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 17, 2011, from 4-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, February 18, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Officiating the funeral service will be D.V. Dillinger.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Ruth by Thursday, February 17, 2011, at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
February 15 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Harris Hoeffel Sr.

GARRETT — Harris H. Hoeffel Sr., 89, of Garrett died Monday, February 14, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Hoeffel

Born February 7, 1922, in Garrett, he was the son of the late Ignatius "Nate" and Emma Hoeffel.

Mr. Hoeffel was a graduate of Saint Joseph Catholic School in Garrett and Wittenberg College.

He served as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corp in WWII and was a member of American Legion Post 178 in Garrett.

He was the former owner of Hoeffel's Meats in Garrett, retiring in 1988.

He was a volunteer firefighter for the City of Garrett for 32 years, head of the Civil Defense and former mayor of Garrett from 1976-1980.

He was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett where he served as a deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Naomi Ann Hoeffel; sons, Matt Hoeffel of Auburn, Nate Hoeffel of Fort Wayne, and Chris Hoeffel of Garrett; daughters, Cande Bishop, Holly Custer and Deb Saylor, all of Garrett; 14 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Josephine Paul of Sarasota, Fla.

He was preceded in death by a son, Harris H. "Punk" Hoeffel Jr., and a daughter, Mary Hoeffel, both in 2009; and a sister, Elvis "Tootie" Binz.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, with visitation from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. prior to services at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St., Garrett.

Visitation will be from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday with recital of the rosary at 4:30 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main S., Auburn. Father Andrew Nazareth will officiate.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials to are Saint Joseph Catholic Church or National Kidney Foundation.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Ruth Yarlot

WATERLOO — Ruth E. Yarlot, 96, of Waterloo died Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Yarlot was a registered nurse. She was a graduate of St. Joe Hospital Nursing School and worked for Dr. Cartwright for several years. She retired from DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo.

She was born Dec. 10, 1914, in Franklin Township in DeKalb County to Manuel and Anna (Miller) Miller. She married Loren M. Yarlot on May 17, 1941, in St. Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne and he died March 26, 2004.

Surviving are a son, Mark E. (Janet) Yarlot of Tehachapi, Calif.; two daughters, Susan M. (Charles) Crowl of Hamilton and Alice A. (Thomas) Swift of Waterloo; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a brother, Lathan Miller; and three sisters, Dehea Masten, Helen Walker and Ethel Bender.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

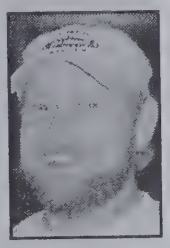
Calling is Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo and also one hour prior to the service. A Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Keith Thompson

FREMONT — Keith Thompson, 51, of Coldwater, Mich., died Monday, February 14, 2011, at his home in Coldwater.



Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson was a longtime maintenance engineer at Coldwater Bakery in Coldwater.

He was a 1977 graduate of Coldwater High School.

Mr. Thompson was a member of the Branch County Sportsman Club and a past member of the NRA.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing horseshoes and playing his guitar. He also enjoyed being outdoors and mowing the lawn.

He was born June 4, 1959, in Coldwater to Edwin and Nancy (Keith) Thompson. His mother survives in Coldwater and his father died in 1987.

Also surviving are two daughters, Jessica and Greg Crandall of Homer, Mich., and Chandra Thompson and Justin Hochstetler of Coldwater; a son, Jeremy and Melony Thompson of Coldwater; his life partner, Tammy Branham of Coldwater; his grandchildren, Riley and Marissa Thompson; four brothers, Randy and Cindy Thompson of Burlington, Mich., Lyle and Sherry Thompson of Tekonsha, Mich., Mark and Wendy Thompson of Coldwater and Brian and Kelly Thompson of Fremont.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, February 17, 2011, at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with the Rev. Eric Piersimoni officiating. Burial will be in Knauss Cemetery, Kinderhook Township, Branch County, Coldwater.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Cancer Association.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Floyd Hefty

GWINN, Mich. — Floyd Burton Hefty, 90, of Gwin and formerly of Auburn, Ind., died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, at the D.J. Jacobetti Home of Veterans in Marquette.

Graveside services in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola will be held at a later date.

Beams Funeral Home in Fremont is in charge of arrangements.

Gwendolyn Steigmeyer

GARRETT — Gwendolyn Steigmeyer, 84, of Garrett died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, at Vibra Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Steigmeyer worked as an inspector at Electric Motors in Garrett for 17 years.

She was a member of Tri Kappa Sorority.

She was born Jan. 5, 1927, in Garrett to Forrest and Georgia (Snyder) Moats. She married Jerome "Jerry" E. Steigmeyer on May 22, 1948, in Garrett and he died Oct. 26, 1993.

Surviving are three daughters, Marcia Krontz of Garrett, Cindy (Richard) Rassel of Garrett and Kathy (James) Grawcock of LaOtto; two sons, Steve Steigmeyer of Dripping Springs, Texas, and Mark (Michelle) Steigmeyer of Churubusco; a brother, Jack (Fern) Moats of Auburn; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and a sister, Jeanette Balthazar.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home and from 10-11 a.m. Saturday.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

William DePew

ANGOLA — William E. DePew, 72, died Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Center in Angola.

Mr. DePew had worked at Magnavox and Kraft Foods.

He was born Dec. 15, 1938, in Garrett to Orville K. and Mary Rose (Weaver) DePew.

Surviving are two brothers, Daniel O. DePew of Adrian, Mich., and Alan J. DePew of Garrett; a sister, Christine Burke of Garrett.; and a friend Mary Kennard of Angola.

A sister, Sharon Brown, preceded him in death.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West St., Angola. The Rev. Alan LaRue of Pleasant View Church of Christ will officiate.

Memorials are to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Carl Wimer

AUBURN — Carl D. "Joe" Wimer, 88, of Auburn died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Wimer

He was born Oct. 6, 1922, in Auburn, to Carl E. and Ruth H. (Mochamer) Wimer. They preceded him in death.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy serving during World War II, serving from 1942 to 1946.

After returning home from the service, he graduated from International Business College in Fort Wayne where he became a Certified Pubic Accountant.

Mr. Wimer was treasurer for Ruckman and Hansen Inc. for 26 1/2 years. He then went to work as treasurer/office manager for Northwest Allen County Schools for 12 years, retiring in 1985.

He was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

He was also a 60-year member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn, Disabled American Veteran Baron Lodge, and Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 1568 of Angola.

Mr. Wimer enjoyed fishing, hunting, all sports, and just being around people.

He was an avid reader and loved to dance, especially ballroom dancing.

He married Kathleen F. Houtzer on Nov. 1, 1942, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Gloria Wimer of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and David John of Auburn; three grandchildren and their spouses, Eric and Sarah Wimer of Fort Wayne, Brandy and Paul Sprague of Talbot, Tenn., and Greg and Lisa Metzger of Las Vegas, Nevada; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Auburn Presbyterian Church or DeKalb County Heart Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

William Pfefferkorn

GARRETT — William John "Bill" Pfefferkorn, 57, of Gobles, Mich., and formerly of Garrett died Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Pfefferkorn was in the grocery business most his life in the Garrett area.

He was a member of the Journey Church in Gobles and the Garret Eagles Lodge.

He was born Feb. 4, 1954, in Garrett to Norbert L. "Chub" and Elsie (Bockelman) Pfefferkorn. He married Maryann (Coleman) Smith in Gobles. She survives in Gobles.

Also surviving are two brothers, Kevin (Terri) Pfefferkorn of Auburn and Mark (Linda) Pfefferkorn of Big Long Lake, Wolcottville; a son, Will of Fort Wayne a stepdaughter: Jamie (Jeff) Clifton of South Bend; and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home with Pastor Gary Napp officiating.

Memorials are to the family in care of Maryann Pfefferkorn.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Phyllis Carnahan

BUTLER — Phyllis J. Carnahan, 84, of Butler died Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Carnahan was a homemaker.

She was a member of Christ's Church in Butler.

She was born in Harlan on Feb. 22, 1926, to William Roy and Aida (Bastress) Henry. She married Kenneth Dwight Carnahan on Feb. 1, 1948, in the Harlan Church of Christ. He died Dec. 8, 2003.

Surviving are her children, Kenneth Dwight (Sue) Carnahan Jr. of Butler, Kelly Don (Linda) Carnahan of Arcadia, Kerry Dale (Darcy) Carnahan of Butler, Melanie Lou (Mark) Strong of Spencerville and Tina Marie (Marvin) Clark of Angola; 15 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Duvern and Sharon Carnahan of Fort Wayne, Toni Henry of Harlan, Miki Lu Henry of Harlan and Betty Henry of Huntington.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a grandson, Adam Carnahan; five brothers; and four sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Christ's Church in Butler with Dale Rabineau officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, and also one hour prior to the service at the church Monday.

Memorials are to Christ's Church of Butler.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
February 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Longtime dispatcher loved auxiliary work

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Wilma Gilbert was in her glory volunteering for the Cameron Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, being motherly to police officers or cooking her family's favorite food.

She was known as a woman of many talents who was a longtime police dispatcher, a deputy for the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and member of the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary.

Mrs. Gilbert, 91, of Angola, died Jan. 30 at The Towne House Retirement Center in Fort Wayne.

One of her sons, George Gilbert, said his mother was familiar with hard work and was employed by Imhoff's Grocery Store in Pleasant Lake, Pet Milk Co. and also worked on the farm. She served as a dispatcher and deputy for the Steuben County Sheriff's Department for 10 years and as a dispatcher for the Angola Police Department for seven years. She retired in 1985. GIlbert said his mother took her job seriously, but didn't bring it home with her or tell stories about it.

"She took a job as a police dispatcher in 1968. While a dispatcher, she was named a deputy and may have been the first female deputy (in Steuben County). It became necessary to have a female deputy to transport female inmates," he said. "She liked the involvement and worked for three sheriffs. She moved to the city until her retirement in 1985. … She used to say she thrived on (emergency situations) and took great pride in communicating with officers (from dispatch)."

Her other son, Paul, said his mother was highly respected. "I used to run into retired law enforcement (officers), and they knew her by her voice and developed a respect for her. She was sort of the mom," Paul Gilbert said. "She worked hard to learn her job."

She was a member of the Pleasant View Church of Christ in Angola, where she was a Sunday school teacher and superintendent. Her faith in God and church were important to her.

Mrs. Gilbert was a life member of the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary. She was an avid crocheter and made several baby blankets over the years and donated them to the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary. She also crocheted a baby blanket for each of her grandchildren for future great-grandchildren.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mrs. Gilbert

"She loved (to crochet) and would donate to the Cameron Auxiliary everything she did. Her proudest moment was when she was named a recipient of the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary Lifetime Award for donating 7,629 hours to service," George Gilbert said. "She donated her time in the gift shop, she moved around patients, was a surgery host, she headed up garage sales for the auxiliary. She had a passion for the hospital, and it gave her an outlet for donating her time."

George Gilbert recalled that after his father, Roger Gilbert, Wilma's husband, died the mother and son had lunch a few times a week together.

"We'd have farm food: mush, salmon patties, dandelion greens. She knew what we liked and tried hard to please," he said.

For her 80th birthday, George Gilbert took his mother for a ride on the back of his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. She loved it. "We went down I 69, and she got the biggest kick out of it," he said.

Mrs. Gilbert loved her family and was fiercely proud of them. There was always M & Ms or strawberry licorice in a candy jar for them. There was her traditional Christmas meal of red cabbage, Chinese lettuce salad and pie, while her hickory nut cake was a family favorite.

"She was a very strong, confident, caring and loving woman who passed on a positive legacy to all her family," George Gilbert said.

She also enjoyed traveling, reading mystery novels, gardening and her gladiolas, sending greeting cards to people, playing cards and playing Wii Bowling with her friends at Cameron Woods.

Paul Gilbert said his mother was adventuresome, but always tried to make the best of everything. He recalled a trip with her that was especially a treat for him.

"The two of us went to Washington, D.C., and took in all of the sights. My brother, George, was graduating from Marine officer training (they went to see him graduate)," Paul said.

Another specialty of hers was scalloped corn and oysters. Paul said for years, his mother took white meat and the breast when they were eating chicken or turkey. Paul realized as an adult his mother was lovingly sacrificing the dark meat, thighs and drumsticks for her boys, because they liked them best.

Mrs. Gilbert was born Jan. 10, 1920, in Pleasant Lake to Albert and Charlotte (Alleshouse) Ulmer. She married Roger Gilbert on Sept. 26, 1948. He died Dec. 22, 2000.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, George W and Stacy Gilbert of Angola and Paul and Sharon Gilbert of Pleasant Lake; and seven grandchildren, Katie Gilbert, Sarah Gilbert, Jared Gilbert, Amanda Gilbert, Mark Gilbert and his wife, Fallon, Stephanie Gilbert and Steven Gilbert.

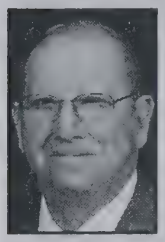
Mrs. Gilbert was the youngest of nine children and was the last of that generation. She was also preceded in death by five brothers, Wellington Ulmer, Kenneth Ulmer, Maynard Ulmer, Lawrence Ulmer and Wilbur Ulmer; and three sisters, Vivaleen Brooks, Velma Van Auken and Iona Shipe.

Burial was in the Pleasant Lake Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Pleasant View Church of Christ or RISE Inc.

Max Wappes

AUBURN — Max K. Wappes, 74, of Auburn, died Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born April 14, 1936 in Garrett, he was the son of the late William and Mildred Wappes. He worked for Auburn Gear and retired after 42 years of service. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.



Mr. Wappes

Surviving are his wife, Erma J. Wappes of Auburn; a son and his companion, Mark Wappes and Dana Robbins; daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Dennis Arnold of Auburn and Donna and Lanny Fredrick of Auburn; grandchildren, Adam and Andrew Arnold, Nathen and Alyssa Fredrick, and Kyle Wappes; great-granddaughter, Naysha Fredrick; sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Dick Griffin of Garrett; and brothers and sisters-in-law, George and Helen Wappes of Auburn and Jack and Jean Wappes of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday at 11 a.m., with calling one hour prior, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Derrick Sneyd will officiate. Visitation also will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to Masses or the American Diabetes Association.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

David DeCoursey

AUBURN — David G. DeCoursey, 74, of Auburn and formerly of Arizona, died Sunday Feb. 20, 2011 at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Local private family services will take place. Public services and burial will be held in Peoria, Ariz.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Andrew Gamble

GARRETT — Andrew Gamble, 66, of Garrett died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Gamble had worked in maintenance at Maverick Molding in Garrett, retiring in 2010.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Aug. 11, 1944, in Hazard, Ky., to French and Dora (Perkins) Gamble.

Surviving are a daughter and two sons, Andrea S. (Bryan) Leverenz of Garrett, Charles E. Mullins of Garrett and Jimmy D. (Christina) Gamble of Connersville; seven grandchildren; two brothers, Ed Gamble of Houston, Texas, and Charlie Gamble, Mylan, Mich.; and four sisters, Bertha Payton of Garrett, Emma Harter of Auburn, Eva McCelliam of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Carolyn High of Angola.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his former wife: Nyoka Faye Gamble; a brother, John Gamble; two sisters, Betty Payton and Alma Frost; and a grandchild.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Pastor David Jordan of the First Baptist Church in Laurel, Ind., officiating.

Burial will follow in Embrey Cemetery near Garrett.

Memorials are to the family.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.or Memorials are requested to Zion Lutheran Church.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Milo Link

MIO, Mich. — Milo Maxwell Link, 93 of Mio, died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, at Grayling Mercy Hospital in Grayling, Mich.

Mr. Link moved to Auburn from Michigan as a young boy. He later moved to Vandebilt, Mich., before settling in Mio in 1973.

He was a tool and die maker for many years and worked for American Plastics in Rose City, Mich.

Mr. Link served in the military during World War II.

He was born Dec. 20, 1917, in Beulah, Mich., to Evan and Nide (Cramer) Link.

Surviving are his wife, Marjorie Maxine (McCelland) Link; his son, Michael M. Link of Mio; and two sisters, Wilma Carper and Mazzie Jean Gwynn, both of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Dean Link; and his brothers, Curt, Arnold, and Hershel "Dutch" Link.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, Ind.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home with Pastor Steve Evans officiating. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Lashley Funeral Home Inc. of Mio, Mich., and Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn, Ind., are in charge of arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Andrew Gamble

GARRETT — Andrew Gamble, 66, of Garrett died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Gamble had worked in maintenance at Maverick Molding in Garrett, retiring in 2010.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Aug. 11, 1944, in Hazard, Ky., to French and Dora (Perkins) Gamble.

Surviving are a daughter and two sons, Andrea S. (Bryan) Leverenz of Garrett, Charles E. Mullins of Garrett and Jimmy D. (Christina) Gamble of Connersville; seven grandchildren; two brothers, Ed Gamble of Houston, Texas, and Charlie Gamble, Mylan, Mich.; and four sisters, Bertha Payton of Garrett, Emma Harter of Auburn, Eva McCelliam of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Carolyn High of Angola.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his former wife: Nyoka Faye Gamble; a brother, John Gamble; two sisters, Betty Payton and Alma Frost; and a grandchild.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the funeral home with Pastor David Jordan of the First Baptist Church in Laurel, Ind., officiating.

Burial will follow in Embrey Cemetery near Garrett.

Memorials are to the family.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Sidney Pepe

FORT WAYNE — Sidney "Sid" Pepe, 90, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, February 19, 2011.

Born in Fort Wayne, Sid was a WWII Army Air Corps veteran serving in Europe.

He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 33 years, retiring in 1975.

Sid then was a bookkeeper for the Evangelical Mennonite Conference.

He was a member of Highland Bethel Church and was involved in Summit City Lines, Three Rivers Railroad Heritage Council, United Methodist Men, NATMUS, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, and treasurer of Lincoln Highway Historical Association.

Surviving are his sons, Mike (Sharon) Pepe of Fishers, Ind., and Doug (Laura) Pepe of California; a grandson, Max Klinger; and brother, Charles (Joan) Pepe of Arizona.

Sid was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Eleanor Pepe, and parents Charles and Mina Pepe.

Funeral service is at 11 a.m. Friday, February 25, 2011, at D.O. McComb and Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., with the Rev. Nate Schumacher and the Rev. Bryce Winteregg officiating.

Calling is from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Burial is in Leo Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the EMC.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Dorothy Kimes

AUBURN — Dorothy M. Kimes, 97, of Auburn died Monday, February 21, 2011, at her granddaughter's home in Lehighton, Pa.

Mrs. Kimes was a homemaker.

She had also been a housekeeper and had worked at Fort Wayne Tailoring and Universal Tool and Stamping.

Mrs. Kimes was a volunteer with R.S.V.P. and a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. She also belonged to Spencer Belles Homemakers Club and Auburn Home Economics Club.

She was born in Adams County on Sept. 11, 1913, to Charles and Minerva (Liechty) Kelley. She married Virgil Kimes on May 3, 1934, in Garrett. He died Sept. 10, 2001.

She is survived by a son and his companion, Virgil Kimes Jr. and Marcia Casey of Auburn; two daughters, Carolyn Sinclair of Nesquehoning, Pa., and Lois Shull of Butler; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; a brother, John Kelley of Fort Wayne; and three sisters, Fay Deright of Murrieta, Calif., Mary Kelley of Fort Wayne and Ruth Jansen of North Port, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a daughter, Diane Kimes; a grandson, Denny Akey; daughter-in-law, Barbara Kimes; and two sons-in-law, Glen Akey and William Shull; three brothers Richard, James and Robert Kelley; and a sister, Lucile Kelley.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

Memorials can be directed to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, R.S.V.P. or the Heimach Center.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Smith

SPENCERVILLE — Robert W. Smith, 96, of Spencerville died Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born April 9, 1914, in Huntertown to Samuel C. and Ida A. (Baer) Smith.

Mr. Smith

Robert was a farmer all his life and also worked as a security guard for 21 years.

He was a 1932 graduate of Huntertown High School. He played varsity basketball all four years he was in school.

He was a member of Spencerville Methodist Church.

Robert married Audrey Farver on October 7, 1939, in Centerville, Ind., and she survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Sharon Dorsey of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, Gordon and Barb Smith of Spencerville; eight grandchildren, Debbie (Tom) Bailey, Dawn Glover, Tracy (Tim) Walters, Jerry (Christy Coon) Smith, Sherry (Larry) Carcione, Faith (Mike) Robison, Crystal (Ben) Dean and Roxanne Smith; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Josh Robert Smith; nine brothers; and two sisters.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, February 25, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, Ind., with the Rev. Donna Gammon officiating. Burial is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is today, Thursday, from 4-8 p.m. and also two hours prior to the service Friday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be directed to Spencerville United Methodist Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Cary Moss

ASHLEY — Cary P. Moss, 37, of Ashley died Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

A memorial service will take place at 1 p.m. Friday at Brookside Church, 6102 Evard Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Willie Sims officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Amber Moss.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Carmen Nelson

FORT WAYNE — Carmen Nelson, 86, died Saturday, Feb., 19, 2011, at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro, Ark.

Mrs. Nelson

Mrs. Nelson worked as a nurses' aide with Lawton Nursing Home for seven years, retiring in 1974.

She was born Oct. 25, 1924, in Stroh to Clarence and Clara (Tracey) Ferris.

Surviving are a daughter SoDonna Tuttle of Fort Wayne; two sons, Steven Nelson of New Haven and John Poland of Kentucky; and 12 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Corwin H. Nelson; a daughter, Sandra Hamm; a son, Stanley Nelson; a brother, Emerson Ferris; and two sisters, Connie and Mary.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson. Pastor Craig E. Burkholder will officiate at the service.

Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service.

Condolences may be sent to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Martha Kingsley

AUBURN — Martha Jean Kingsley, 87, died Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Kingsley worked at the former Blackwell's Department Store in Auburn.

She was born May 23, 1923, in Auburn to Nevada and Madonna (Miser) Haynes. She married Richard Kingsley in 1976 in St. Joe and he survives.

She is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Jolynn and Peter Byal of Fort Wayne and Janet and Chuck Dykema of Holton, Mich.; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bob Beehler in 1968 ,and a sister, Betty Carroll.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn with the Rev. Chuck Summers officiating.

There is no calling.

Preferred memorials are to the Disabled Veterans.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Glenn Brendel

NEW HAVEN — Glenn E. Brendel, 71, of New Haven died on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at his residence.

Mr. Brendel

Mr. Brendel served in the Indiana Air National Guard in audio visual services, retiring in 1994 after more than 25 years of service.

He was past president of the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society and a member of F&AM Lodge in Spencerville, Ind.

He was born Jan. 6, 1940, in Fort Wayne the son of Glenn J. and Evelyn M. (Norris) Brendel. They are deceased.

Surviving are a son, Todd A. (Amy) Brendel of Bartlett, Ill.; a sister, Susan (Larry) Funk of Spencerville; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. today at Klaehn, Fahl & Melton Funeral Home, Winchester Road Chapel, 6424 Winchester Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Robert Arenobine officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today prior to the funeral.

Preferred memorials to the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society.

Send online condolence to www.klaehnfahlmelton funerals.com.

'There was no stopping her'

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Mary Harriet Hornbacker loved life to the fullest.

Mrs. Hornbacker, 93, died Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was born to Buell and Carolyn Snyder in Danville, Ill., where she developed a love of horses and equestrian arts. After graduating from DePauw University with a degree in fine arts, she met and married a fellow animal lover, veterinarian Dr. W.V. Hornbacker.

"They shared a deep love of animals," said her son, David Hornbacker, noting his family had many pets when he was younger.

Anni Bruns, Mary Harriet Hornbacker's longtime friend, said her friend had a horse on the family's farm that routinely tried to eat its way through the barn.

"Mary Harriet loved that horse, even if it did eat the barn." Bruns said. "She just had a special connection with animals."

As a wife and mother, David Hornbacker said, his mother enjoyed working alongside his father in the veterinary clinic. She especially enjoyed the people she met, and the friendships she made.

The couple had four boys, including one set of twins. David Hornbacker said he and his brothers were usually getting into mischief, but his mother was good at ruling the house with an iron fist. He recalled many Sundays when he and his brothers were charged with cleaning the kennels at the clinic before services at Auburn Presbyterian Church, where Mary Harriet Hornbacker served as a deacon. He said someone would always goof off in an attempt to avoid church.

"Mom got quick to that real fast," he said, and they always got to church on time.

Later when the couple retired, Mrs. Hornbacker was able to devote her time to more of her interests — such as music, her son said. His mother was a devout supporter of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, always holding season tickets. Bruns agreed. She said music was always playing when she visited her friend's home.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mary Harriet Hornbacker and friends celebrate her 90th birthday at a surprise party organized by her family at Bridgewater Golf Club. From left are Chris Grogg, Deb Kennedy, Hornbacker and Anni Bruns. Hornbacker was active in Friends of the Eckhart Public Library.

Kristy Hornbacker said her mother-in-law enjoyed the social aspect of clubs such as the Auburn Garden Club, the Auburn Ladies' Literary Club and the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed volunteering at Eckhart Public Library. She also relished in the opportunity to bake cookies for any of the groups she served, her son said. She prided herself on making the most exotic cookies she could find.

"She didn't make drop cookies," her son said. "She was always looking for mascarpone or something fancy."

As a long-time member of the Friends of the Library, Bruns said, Mrs. Hornbacker was a faithful Thursday afternoon volunteer. Even after losing the majority of her vision due to macular degeneration, Mrs. Hornbacker still continued to serve, Bruns said.

"When her eyesight declined, she would still help as much as she could," Bruns said. She even continued being active in the Ladies' Literary Club, listening to the books on audiobook instead of reading them. David Hornbacker said his mother also was able to enjoy her daily crossword puzzle with the help of a reading machine.

"There was no stopping her," he said. Indeed, said Bruns, Mrs. Hornbacker was someone all of the library staff looked up to.

"We used to say we wanted to be just like Mary Harriet when we grew up," Bruns said.

Zackary Zimmerman

SPENCERVILLE — Zackary Zues Zimmerman, 35, died Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. Calling will be Monday from 5-7 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville. A memorial service will take place Monday at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are to the family, in care of Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, P.O. Box 165, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Jane Potter

AUBURN — Jane E. Potter, 86, of Auburn, died Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Miss Potter

Born Feb. 11, 1925, in Auburn, she was the daughter of the late Forrest and Margaret Myers Potter.

She worked for JC Penney for 38 years and had also worked at Wards, Gowers, Muchies, Fashion Crossroads and Gliks. She also had a professional roller skating act with her sister.

She was a member of Saint Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn. She loved working with people and her dog Missy.

She is survived by two sisters, Janet Potter and Barbara Potter Capen, both of Auburn; a niece, Mary Ann McClain of Sebring, Fla.; an uncle, Bill Myers; an aunt, Joan Knepper; and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Jean Potter.

Private funeral services will be held with the Rev. Richard Kraus officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to Saint Marks Lutheran Church or DeKalb Humane Society.

Arrangements by Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. To sign the guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com

Willis Lockwood

HAMILTON — Willis H. Lockwood, 79, of Hamilton died Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehab Center in Angola.

Mr. Lockwood

He was born July 8, 1931, in Waterloo to Chester and Joyce (Beard) Lockwood.

Willis was a farmer, a mechanic at Maxton Motors for 16 years and also was a foreman at Pent Corp. for 17 years, retiring in 1990.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, a member of Alvarado United Methodist Church and loved woodworking.

He married Donna M. Grogg on Feb. 14, 1954, in the Hamilton United Methodist Church and she survives. He is also survived by two daughters and a son, Debra K. Lockwood of Angola, Cynthia S. (Steven) Oberlin of Angola and Kevin E. (Erica) Lockwood of Waterloo; a brother, Clifford (Dorothy) Lockwood of Waterloo; and six grandchildren, Jennifer L. Oberlin, Jessica A. Oberlin, Benjamin R. Lockwood, Matthew S. Lockwood, Rachel A. Lockwood and Andrew J. Lockwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Teresa A. Lockwood; a sister, Lois Lockwood; and three brothers, Bernard Lockwood, Ronald Lockwood and Dayton Lockwood.

Services will be 1 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Pastor Donna Holcomb officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton. Calling is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be given in Willis's memory to Alvarado United Methodist Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Joana Egli

SPENCERVILLE — Joana Mae Egli, 84, died Saturday at DeKalb Hospital in Auburn.

She worked as a hostess and waitress for Morrings Country Club in Naples, Fla., and for the Fort Wayne Country Club. She also helped her daughter and son-in-law when they opened their restaurant, Sandra D's Italian Gardens in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 20, 1927, in Fort Wayne to the late Robert and Elsie Mae (Birge) Foster. She married Robert Paul Egli in 1946 in Fort Wayne, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons, Dennis (Annette) Egli of Chester, S.C.; Michael Egli of Fort Wayne; a daughter Sandra (Bentley) Dillinger of Auburn; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She had three brothers and three sisters.

No services or calling will be held.

Arrangements by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

STAR
February 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Debra Redinger

ST. JOE — Debra J. (Gasper) Redinger, 58, of St. Joe was carried home to her Lord by angels on Saturday Feb. 26, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Redinger

She was born June 21, 1952, in Fort Wayne to Kenneth and Verna (Besser) Gasper. Her father has passed away and her mother survives in Fort Wayne.

She was an X-ray technician. She worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and US Health Networks, retiring in 2008.

She was a graduate of New Haven High School, IPFW and Fort Wayne School of Radiology.

Debra was a member of Auburn Alliance Church. Her hobby and passion was collecting angels.

She married William "Bill" Redinger on Jan. 31, 1970, in Fort Wayne and he survives. She is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Matt and Tressa Redinger of St. Joe, and a daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Clyde Hankey of Butler. There are eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Jean and Cork Schuler of Fort Wayne, Peggy and Russell Grice of Columbus, Ohio, and Ginger and Tom Ervin of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Kenny Gasper of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her father; and twin sisters who died in infancy.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. in Palestine Cemetery, Palestine, Ind., with Pastor Shaun DuFault officiating. Calling is from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to American Cancer Society.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

John Feagler

GARRETT — John "Jack" K. Feagler, 77 of Garrett died at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Feagler

Mr. Feagler had worked in production at Peter Eckrich Meats in Fort Wayne and at Tower Automotive in Auburn, retiring in 1998. Following his retirement, he worked at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett and for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School Corp. in Garrett.

He was a WW II veteran, serving in the Army-Airborne.

Mr. Feagler was a member of the Garret American Legion and Eagles and St. Joseph Catholic Church, all in Garrett.

He was born April 5, 1933, in Garrett to Virgil and Maxine (Owens) Feagler and they preceded him in death. He married Marilyn F. Bianski on Feb. 23, 1957, in Ege, and she survives in Garrett.

Surviving with this wife are three sons, Dan (Robyn) Feagler, Mark Feagler and Jed Feagler, all of Garrett; three daughters, Joni (Bob) Cole, Kathy (Brad) Johnson and Mary Kay (Brian) Cook, all of Garrett; 11 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one stepgreat-grandchild; and two sisters Kerin (Larry) Houser of Cape Coral, Fla., and Kay Oster of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Denny Feagler.

Visitation will be from 2-9 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating.

Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery at Garrett, with military graveside honors by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to the Denny Feagler Scholarship Fund, Masses at St. Joseph Church or to St. Joseph Catholic School.

Send a condolence or sign an online guest register at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Joana Egli

AUBURN — Joana Mae Egli, 84, died Saturday at DeKalb Hospital in Auburn.

She worked as a hostess and waitress for Morrings Country Club in Naples, Fla., and for the Fort Wayne Country Club. She also helped her daughter and son-in-law when they opened their restaurant, Sandra D's Italian Gardens in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 20, 1927, in Fort Wayne to the late Robert and Elsie Mae (Birge) Foster. She married Robert Paul Egli in 1946 in Fort Wayne, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons, Dennis (Annette) Egli of Chester, S.C.; Michael Egli of Fort Wayne; a daughter Sandra (Bentley) Dillinger of Auburn; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She had three brothers and three sisters.

No services or calling will be held.

Arrangements by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

Violet Klopfenstein

FORT WAYNE — Violet E. Klopfenstein, 88, of Fort Wayne died Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Klopfenstein had retired from General Electric.

She was a member of the G.E. Elex Club.

She was born Nov. 6, 1922, in Woodburn.

Surviving is a daughter, Melanie (Larry) Shive of Auburn; two grandsons; five great-grandchildren; three sisters, Marian Miller of Woodburn, Gloria (Arnold) Gerbers of Woodburn and Starlee (Al) Kelble of Paulding; and several nieces and nephews.

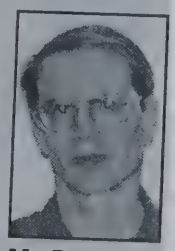
She was preceded in death by a sister, Edna Pardy, and a brother, Robert Miller.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Graveside service will be at 4 p.m. at the Bowers Cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Larry Betz

FORT WAYNE — Larry W. Betz, 64, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011


Mr. Betz

Mr. Betz worked as an electrician at B.F. Goodrich for more than 46 years.

He was an Army veteran serving during the Vietnam War.

He was born April 9, 1946, in Auburn.

Surviving are a son, David A. Betz of Northville, Mich.; his mother, Kathryn Betz of Butler; and a brother, Marlin (Karen) Betz of Plymouth.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dianna in 1981; and his father, Marion Betz.

Funeral services were Monday at the Hockemeyer Funeral Home in Harlan. The Rev. Keith Schreffler officiated.

Burial was in Scipio Cemetery in Harlan.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Ruth Farrington

AUBURN — Ruth E. Farrington, 89, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Farrington

She was born Oct. 31, 1921, in DeKalb County, to the late Paul and Willo (Hinman) Whetsel.

Ruth had a varied background in business. She was a legal secretary, medical office Manager and co-owned Farrington Real Estate in Waterloo for 20 years.

In 1991, they merged with Classic City Reality. She worked through the years with a number of great people and real estate offices until her retirement just a few years ago with Mike Thomas Reality.

She was associated with Maple Grove Methodist Church and Auburn First United Methodist.

She was a charter member of Richland Township Home Demonstration Club, a member of the Northeast Indiana Real Estate Association and was a former member of the Eastern Star. She was an avid musician and enjoyed studying and playing the piano and violin.

She and her husband Charles were very civic minded and were always involved in many different community activities and organizations over the years.

She married Charles Farrington on Sept. 25, 1941, in the Waterloo United Methodist Church. He passed away April 27, 1992.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Larry Rothenhofer of Fort Wayne, Louise and Gary Rockey of Boerne, Texas, and Julie and Randy Ramsey of Auburn; three sons and a daughter-in-law, John Farrington of Auburn, Jim and Camille Farrington of Palm Harbor, Florida, and Rex Farrington of Auburn; six grandchildren and their spouses, Laura and Steve Warner, Josh and Brooke Farrington, Jay Farrington, Ryan and Stephanie Ramsey, Rachel Ramsey, and Myah Farrington; one stepgranddaughter and her spouse, Jill and Kevin Sherlock; five great-grandchildren; five stepgreat-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by an infant son; a granddaughter, Betsy Opper; a stepgrandson, Doug Rothenhofer; and a sister, Barbara Leach.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service.

Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Serenity House, DeKalb County Humane Shelter, or the DeKalb High School Show Choir.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Clara Hanes

KENDALLVILLE — Clara Marie Hanes, age 99, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hanes

Mrs. Hanes was born in Avilla, Indiana, on August 17, 1911, to the late Albert Diehm and Emma (Wolf) Diehm.

She married LeRoy Harmon Hanes on September 16, 1933, in Avilla. He preceded her death in March 1979.

Clara was a homemaker and she was also employed for several years at the old Lutheran Home in Kendallville where she was in charge of the dietary department.

She was a life-long member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla where she was active in in the past with the Ladies Aid. She was also a member of the RSVP Club in Kendallville.

Clara enjoyed flower gardening and baking.

She lived at the Lamplighter in Kendallville for many years where she participated in weekly Bible study and helped with making bears for children.

While living at the Lutheran Life Villages she was involved in the choir group.

Clara was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and she enjoyed playing bingo and euchre.

Survivors include four sons, Robert and Beverly Hanes of Kendallville, John Hanes of Auburn, Lauren and Karen Hanes of Kendallville and Duane and Tove Hanes of Kendallville; a daughter, Joann Wallace of Rantoul, Illinois; 10 grandchildren, Cathy Aumsbaugh of Kendallville, Jamie March of Kendallville, Michael Wallace of Mahomet, Illinois, Douglas Hanes of Kendallville, Charles Hanes of Auburn, Christine Sutton of Auburn, Andrea Wallace of Champaigne, Illinois, Jim Hanes of Cary, Illinois, and Debbie Hanes of Marina del Ray, California; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Norman, Eldon and Freeman Diehm, and a sister, Berniece Graham.

Visitation will be Friday, March 4, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

A celebration of the life of Clara Hanes will be Saturday, March 5, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla. Officiating the celebration will be the Rev. Thomas A. Dunbar.

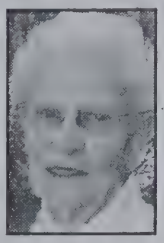
Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana. Casketbearers will be all of her grandchildren.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Ladies Aid of Immanuel Lutheran Church or charity of the donor's choice

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Clara by Friday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Bettie Morrison

FREMONT — Bettie H. Morrison, 89, of Fremont, Indiana, passed away on March 1, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn, Ind.



Mrs. Morrison

She was born April 1, 1921, to William and Irene (Burgett) Monroe in Decatur, Ind. She was the fourth of four children.

Mrs. Morrison graduated from Metz High School. She attended the former Ross O'Neal Chiropractic College of Fort Wayne in 1946.

She was a member of Metz Christian Church, Order of Eastern Star 221 in Ashley, Ind., Fremont American Legion Cassel Post 257 Auxiliary, and La Societe de Femmes Cabane 1536 in Lapeer, Mich.

A longtime resident of Fremont, Mrs. Morrison was an employee of the Fremont Public Library for 16 years, and an election board member for 40 years. She was also an attendant at Pokagon State Park, and waitressed at Buck Lake Ranch as well as other restaurants.

Survivors are a son, Wayne and Sharon Jacobs of Lapeer, Mich.; a daughter-in-law, Janet Jacobs of Butler, Ind.; two stepdaughters, Melanie Sindel of Edgerton, Ohio, and Deborah and Greg Keener of Auburn, Ind.; two stepsons, Roger and Mary Morrison of Auburn, Ind., and Larry and Shann Morrison of Nashville, Tenn.; a stepdaughter-in-law, Phoebe Morrison of Houma, La.; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; 10 stepgrandchildren; 20 stepgreat-grandchildren; and five stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Charles F. Jacobs and Sidney J. Morrison; a son, Lee Jacobs; a stepson, Glen Morrison; a stepson-in-law, Jack Sindel; three grandchildren; two sisters; and one brother.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011, at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, Ind., with an Eastern Star service at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 4, 2011, at the funeral home. Pastor Mike Hesterman will officiate.

Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola, Ind. Following the committal services at the cemetery, a meal will be served at the Fremont American Legion.

Memorials are to Metz Christian Church.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Phyllis Bowerman

ANGOLA — Phyllis A. Bowerman of Angola died Saturday, Feb. 27, 2011, at The Heritage of Huntington.

Mrs. Bowerman

She was preceded in death by her husband, Weir M. Bowerman in 1984.

Surviving are a daughter, Michelle (Bradley) Belcher of Syracuse, Ind.; a brother, Norman Allen of Ontario, Canada; and a sister, Peggy Johnson of Pasadena, Calif.

Private graveside services will be held at Flint Cemetery.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Sign a guest book at www.weichtfh.com.

Clara Hanes

KENDALLVILLE — Clara Marie Hanes, age 99, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hanes

Mrs. Hanes was born in Avilla, Indiana, on August 17, 1911, to the late Albert Diehm and Emma (Wolf) Diehm.

She married LeRoy Harmon Hanes on September 16, 1933, in Avilla. He preceded her death in March 1979.

Clara was a homemaker and she was also employed for several years at the old Lutheran Home in Kendallville where she was in charge of the dietary department.

She was a life-long member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla where she was active in the past with the Ladies Aid. She was also a member of the RSVP Club in Kendallville.

Clara enjoyed flower gardening and baking.

She lived at the Lamplighter in Kendallville for many years where she participated in weekly Bible study and helped with making bears for children.

While living at the Lutheran Life Villages she was involved in the choir group.

Clara was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and she enjoyed playing bingo and euchre.

Survivors include four sons, Robert and Beverly Hanes of Kendallville, John Hanes of Auburn, Lauren and Karen Hanes of Kendallville and Duane and Tove Hanes of Kendallville; a daughter, Joann Wallace of Rantoul, Illinois; 10 grandchildren and their spouses, Cathy and Tom Aumsbaugh of Kendallville, Jamie and Jamison March of Kendallville, Michael Wallace of Mahomet, Illinois, Todd and Sheryl Hanes of Kendallville, Douglas and Marie Hanes of Kendallville, Charles and Lori Hanes of Auburn, Christine and John Sutton of Auburn, Andrea Wallace and Kim Dahl of Champaigne, Illinois, Jim Hanes of Cary, Illinois, and Debbie Hanes of Marina del Ray, California; her stepgrandchildren and their spouses, Toni and Cathy Jones of Avilla and Troy and Jill Jones of Michigan; 16 great-grandchildren; six stepgreat-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Norman, Eldon and Freeman Diehm, and a sister, Berniece Graham.

Visitation will be Friday, March 4, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

A celebration of the life of Clara Hanes will be Saturday, March 5, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla. Officiating the celebration will be the Rev. Thomas A. Dunbar.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana. Casketbearers will be all of her grandchildren.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Ladies Aid of Immanuel Lutheran Church or charity of the donor's choice

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Clara by Friday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Jack Johnston

AUBURN — Jack D. Johnston, 75, of Auburn died Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Johnston worked maintenance in various jobs throughout his life.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during the Korean Conflict.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Jack loved to fish. He also loved repairing bicycles and lawn mowers.

He was born March 6, 1935, to the late Nelson Clinton and Minnie Annabell (Stuller) Johnston.

Surviving are a brother, Harold Johnston of Auburn; five sisters, Betty Beckwith of Fort Wayne, Fay Christlieb of St. Joe, Nancy and her husband Delsley Sizemore of Waterloo, Alice Holmes of Auburn, and Beverly Jones of Auburn; and many, many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Delores Johnston.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with minister Matthew Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna with military graveside services being conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Friday prior to the service at the funeral home.

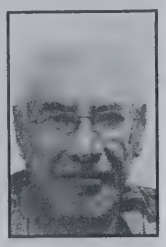
Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Beverly Jones.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Emilio Rodriguez

KENDALLVILLE — Emilio Lopez Rodriguez Sr., 69, of Kendallville died Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at his home in Kendallville.

Mr. Rodriguez was a lathe operator and employed with Nazar Rubber in Toledo for about 40 years.



Mr. Rodriguez

He served his country in the Army National Guard from 1957 to 1960.

Mr. Rodriguez was a member of the American Legion in Newaygo, Mich.

He was born in San Antonio, Texas, on March 13, 1941, to Senaido Ruaz Rodriguez and Margarita Ovaious (Lopez) Rodriguez. He married Melanie Louise Lands Rodriguez on March 13, 1982. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are two sons, Emilio Rodriguez Jr. of Toledo and Christopher and Ashlee Rodriguez of Waterloo; seven daughters, Helen Rodriguez of Toledo, Cindy Rodriguez of Toledo, Joyce (Rodriguez) and Doug Cuney of Fort Wayne, Veronica (Rodriguez) and Robert Draper of Toledo, Kathy (Rodriguez) and Mark Welker of Toledo, Dianna (Rodriguez) and Jim Jones of Toledo, Janet (Rodriguez) and Jack Bolen of Kendallville and Jessica (Rodriguez) and Jamie Alspach of Findlay, Ohio; 24 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two brothers, David Rodriguez of Toledo and Louis Rodriguez of Toledo; and two sisters, Deloris Dickerson of Toledo and Elizabeth Vis of Newaygo, Mich.

He was preceded in death by parents; two sons, Danny Rodriguez and Danial Jose Rodriguez; two daughters, Emilianna and Elizabeth Renee Rodriguez; one granddaughter, Sirena; one great-grandson, Xavier; one sister, Evangelina Gulisic; and two brothers, Robert and David Rodriguez.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m to noon Friday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be at noon Friday at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Send a Condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Mary Zegenfus

AUBURN — Mary E. Zegenfus, 88, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Zegenfus was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn where she taught Sunday school and was a youth group supporter.

She was born on May 6, 1922, in Auburn to James and Maude (Graham) Latson. She married Garthard G. Zegenfus on June 12, 1949. He preceded in death on Feb. 29, 1996.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Elizabeth "Beth" Zegenfus; two sisters, Wilma Wilson and Margaret Haynes; and her parents.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, with the Rev. Steven Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb County Humane Society or St. Mark's Lutheran Church or Betz's Caregivers on the Move.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Angola, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Charles Ley

GARRETT — Charles E. Ley, age 89, of Garrett, Ind., died at 3:17 a.m. Friday, March 4, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, Ind.

Charles was born November 12, 1921, in Avilla, Ind., to William L. and Ethel (Aman) Ley and they preceded him in death. He married Victoria Bonkoski on June 22, 1946, in Garrett, Ind., and she died on April 30, 1979.

He worked as a car inspector on the B&O Railroad for 34 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a WW II Army veteran.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla, Ind., Knights of Columbus Council 1790 in Garrett, Ind., Garrett Eagles and the Avilla American Legion Post 240.

Survivors include two daughters and a son: Peg Gaar of Garrett, Ind., Connie Ley and her companion, Dick Clark, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Joe Ley and his companion, Linda Duke, of Garrett, Ind.

His surviving grandchildren are: Julie (Ron) Regazzi of Leo, Ind., Travis (Christina) Gaar of Garrett, Ind., Nicholas (Amanda) Ley serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq, and Michal Ley and Madison Ley of Auburn, Ind.; his great-grandchildren are: Victoria and Matthew Regazzi of Leo, Ind., and Connor and Kaylee Gaar of Garrett, Ind.

Also surviving are his two brothers and a sister: Victor (Ursula) Ley and Don (Mary) Ley, both of Avilla, Ind., and Teresa Glasgow of Hudson, Ind.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife, Victoria Ley; a brother: John Ley; an infant daughter, Mary Catherine Ley; a son-in-law, Terry Gaar; and a grandson, Jeffrey Gaar.

Visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind., with a rosary service at 2 p.m. There will also be calling from 10-11 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2011, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla, Ind.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2011, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla, Ind., with Father Edward Erpelding officiating.

Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery in Avilla, Ind., with military graveside services by the Avilla American Legion and the U.S. Army.

Memorials are to: Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, Ind.; St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla, Ind.; or St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett, Ind.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Mary Zegenfus

AUBURN — Mary E. Zegenfus, 88, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Zegenfus

Mrs. Zegenfus was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn where she taught Sunday school and was a youth group supporter.

She was born on May 6, 1922, in Auburn to James and Maude (Graham) Latson. She married Garthard G. Zegenfus on June 12, 1949. He preceded in death on Feb. 29, 1996.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Elizabeth "Beth" Zegenfus; two sisters, Wilma Wilson and Margaret Haynes; and her parents.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, with the Rev. Steven Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from noon to 2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb County Humane Society or St. Mark's Lutheran Church or Betz's Caregivers on the Move.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Angola, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Bobby DePew

AUBURN — Bobby "Bobbie" (Ousley) DePew, 61 of Auburn died Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

She was a press brake operator at Group Dekko in Garrett for four years.

She was born March 10, 1949, in Eastern, Ky., to Robert and Minnie (Patton) Ousley and they preceded her in death.

Mrs. DePew

Surviving are her husband, Maynard DePew Sr., of Auburn; a son, Dexter Sexton of Garrett; four daughters, Rhonda Sexton of Auburn, Sherry Sexton of Shelby, Ohio, Tammie Sexton of Garrett and Davina Sexton of Auburn; a stepson and stepdaughter, Maynard DePew Jr. of Alaska and Destiny DePew of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, George Ousley of Eastern, Ky.; and four sisters, Rosie Fletcher of Shiloh, Ohio, Kathy Luna of Mount Gilead, Ohio, Liz Sexton of Plymouth, Ohio, and Peggy Hoover, Eastern, Ky.

She was preceded in death by her former husband and father of her children, Lowell Sexton; and a sister, Mary Searl.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home with Pastor Bill Lyne of Day Spring Church officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

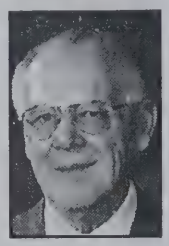
Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome. org.

Duane Hetmansperger

AUBURN — Duane F. Hetmansperger, 83, died Friday, March 4, 2011, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hetmansperger and his wife, Lois, owned the Christian Supply Center in Sturgis, Mich., for 27 years. He had previously worked at Three Rivers Rubber Co. for 10 years.


Mr. Hetmansperger

He graduated from Mendon High School and attended Western Michigan University.

Mr. Hetmansperger was a WWII Army veteran.

He was a member of the Auburn Alliance Church and a lifetime member of the Gideon's International. He also served a number of years on the Child Evangelism Fellowship Committee of St. Joseph County, Mich.

He was born Dec. 11, 1927, in Mendon, Mich., to Fredrick and Lillian (Eldridge) Hetmansperger. He married Lois C. Gerig on Aug. 3, 1966, in the "Little Brown Church in the Vale" in Nashua, Iowa. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a brother, Marlen (Reta) Hetmansperger of Three Rivers, Mich., and several nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Marguerite Hill and Merry Baker.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the Auburn Alliance Church, 805 Old Brick Road, Auburn, Ind.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the church with calling one hour prior to the services. Pastor Shaun Dufault will officiate.

Burial will be in Mendon, Mich.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Child Evanelism and Gideon's International.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is in charge of arrangements.

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Her life was a beautiful melody

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — In her heart of hearts she was a teacher and taught everyone who came to know her to embrace God's gift of life and make a difference in other's lives.

Sharon Stark was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother, said Ken Stark, her husband of 52 years. She passed away Feb. 1, 2011.

Family was most important to Mrs. Stark. In his eulogy at her memorial service, the Rev. G. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist described how she insisted that her family sit together at the dinner table for breakfast and supper.

"She enjoyed sharing with friends stories about her children and grandchildren," he said.

Her son, Paul, recalled how his mother ran the whole household. She took care of all the tasks, meal planning, grocery shopping, cooking, dishwashing, laundry, house cleaning.

"Mom got a lot of satisfaction from knowing that we were all well cared for, happy, healthy and lacked nothing," he said. "The thing that made her the happiest was making us happy."

He described the evening family walks, family game nights, vacations to the Rocky Mountains, Virginia Beach, California and Turkey Run State Park in Indiana when he and his brother John were growing up. Later, his mother and father organized biannual weeklong Stark family trips with their two sons and their families to places such as North Carolina, Disney World and Jamaica.

"My folks put a high priority on getting us all together as often as we could," he said.

Music was a big love of her life, as well. She was an accomplished cellist and played with the Fine Arts String Ensemble and sang in the Trinity Methodist choir. She played cello in the orchestra accompanying many East Noble Theatre productions.

Her son, John, recalled how his mother took him to piano lessons for seven years when he was growing up.

"I usually enjoyed it and became pretty good with her pushing," he said. He recalled the many practice sessions at home with his mother listening intently while cooking dinner in the kitchen. "She occasionally hollered around the corner with advice on better dynamics, but always in an encouraging tone," he said. A couple times he tried a duet with her on the cello.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Stark smiles with excitement, right, on a whitewater rafting trip on the Gallanta River in Montana in 2000. Her husband, Ken, is at the front left.

His mother regularly had records playing the house, said Paul Stark.

"She had a library of many kids' music albums she used to play, and she would also play Christmas albums all season long," he said. His mother bought him an album of John Phillip Sousa marches when he was 3 or 4 years old. "I really liked listening to it. Who would have thought that inspiration probably played a significant part in my becoming the drum major for the East Noble Marching Knights 13 years later," he added.

Fran Moran first met her friend Sharon Stark as members of the Trinity Methodist choir. They sat next to each other in the choir for more than 30 years.

"Sharon had a strong, beautiful voice and was definitely the leader we could follow," she recalled. Mrs. Stark also had a sense of humor.

"She could make us all laugh during long practices, and everyone left with a smile," Moran said.

Mrs. Stark was a founding member of the Noble County Concert Association and a board member for 40 years in charge of publicity.

"My mother strongly believed that everyone should have the opportunity to be exposed to high-quality, live musical entertainment," said John Stark.

Harold Sollenberger, the association's current president, remembered how Mrs. Stark would do anything for the organization.

"Like her classic cello and the music she produced with it, Sharon obviously was an instrument," Sollenberger said. "She worked diligently for all of us with the association. She wore a smile, and cared deeply. I will remember Sharon as a beautiful melody."

Pattison described how involved Mrs. Stark was with Trinity Methodist's activities. She served on the board of trustees, the church council and the worship committee as well in the choir. She played her cello in an ensemble at Christmas and Easter services.

Ken and Sharon Stark owned several businesses before their retirement in 1991, including Taylor's Shoe Store, the Jean Shop and Baskin-Robbins ice cream store, and they supported downtown activities and events.

Mrs. Stark was a member of Tri Kappa Sorority since high school and volunteered at the Friendship Food Pantry and Mid-America Windmill Museum.

She sang with others. She played music with others. She volunteered with others. She worshipped with others and was a familiar face to downtown Kendallville shoppers for many years.

"Sharon made a difference in our community," said Pattison.

Mrs. Stark is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Mabel Fuller

BUTLER — Mabel I. Fuller, 101, died Friday, March 4, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born Nov. 21, 1909, in Newville to Harvey and Eva (Laub) Rank.

She married Lawrence D. Fuller on June 25, 1941, in Fort Wayne, and he preceded her in death on December 28, 1969.

Mrs. Fuller was a homemaker, a member of the Butler United Methodist Church and Butler American Legion Auxiliary, and a volunteer at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Chris and Dennis Phillips of Fort Wayne, and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Walter Rank and Lloyd Rank, and a sister, Elva Stark.

Services will be Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 11 a.m. at the Butler United Methodist Church, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to services.

Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Memorials are to Butler United Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Carol Musser

WATERLOO — Carol Dale Musser, 64, of Waterloo died Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, surrounded by her family, after a short illness

Mrs. Musser

She was born Jan. 28, 1947, in Auburn, to the late Rupert Dale and Vellamae (Webb) Harris.

Carol was a 1965 graduate of Auburn High School.

Mrs. Musser worked as a receptionist for Cooper Standard Automotive in Auburn, retiring in 2006.

She was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. She was also a charter member of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority in Auburn, the Rolling Pin Home Extension Club in Waterloo, volunteered at the Indian Village Food Bank in Auburn, and was very active with IOPO (Indiana Organ Procurement Organization).

Carol loved her friends and family, but her true passion was her grandchildren.

She married Timothy Z. Musser on Dec. 30, 1972, in Auburn. He survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Emily Prosser of Auburn, and Sarah and Michael Payne of Auburn; five grandchildren, Haley Prosser, Reece Prosser, Brady Prosser, Charlie Payne, and Tucker Payne; a brother and sister-in-law, Harve and Marilee Harris of Auburn; three brothers-in-law, James B. Mason of Auburn, Gayle Musser, and his wife Jenny, of Evans, Georgia, and David A. Musser of Hudson; and three sisters-in-law, Leah Musser of Arlington, Texas, Nancy Tompkins of Ft. Wayne; and Susan Harden, and her husband Colel, of Ashley; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, M. Mellody Mason.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday prior to mass at the church. Father David Carkenord will be officiating. Burial will take place in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday, with a Psi Iota Xi memorial service taking place at 8 p.m. and the reciting of the rosary service immediately following, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to IOPO (Indiana Organ Procurement Organization) or the Indian Village Food Bank in Auburn.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

John Gordon

CROMWELL — John Edward Gordon, 46, of Cromwell died Saturday, March 5, 2011, in his home.

He was born Feb. 9, 1965, in Auburn to Tom and Barbara (Sweet) Gordon, who both survive in Auburn.

John was a truck driver for Town and Country Trucking.

He is survived by his parents; two sons, Bryce Gordon of Hamilton and Keith Gordon of LaGrange; a sister, Sue Covey of Auburn; a brother, Mark Gordon of Angola; and special friend, Shelly Sabin of Cromwell.

He was preceded in death by a son, Tyson Gordon; and grandparents, Elsie and Robert Keck, Wayne Sweet, Madeline Sheean and James L. Gordon.

Services will be 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn with the Rev. Herbert Gerken officiating. Burial is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. Calling is three hours prior to the service Tuesday from 12-3 p.m. at the church.

Memorials can be directed to the family. Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn are assisting the family with arrangements. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
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Judy Maurer

AUBURN — Judy E. Maurer, 66, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at Select Specialty Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born July 12, 1944, in Jonesville, Va., the daughter of the late Charlie and Ruby Allen.

She had retired from Ball Brass after 28 years of service.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Cheryl and Danny York of Jonesville, Va., and Carmen Moore of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Roger Taylor of Auburn; brothers and sister-in-law, Kenneth Allen of Auburn and Don and Janet Allen of London, Ky.; a granddaughter, Grace; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Carl Collins.

Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday, with visitation from 2-4 p.m., at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

STAR
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FIRE: *Collapse of roof prevented firefighters from re-entering house after pulling 1 man from blaze*

SUE CARPENTER

A cleanup crew begins work Thursday morning at the scene of a house fire where a father and son died Wednesday night on C.R. 52 west of Garrett.

Garrett fire kills 2

BY SUE CARPENTER and MATT GETTS
suec@kpcnews.net, mattg@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — A house fire claimed the lives of two people Wednesday night in western DeKalb County.

Joshua Crain

John Crain, 65, and his son, Joshua Crain, 29, died in the blaze, according to DeKalb County Coroner Jeff Warner. An autopsy revealed that both men died from inhaling smoke and carbon monoxide, the coroner said.

At 9:46 p.m. Wednesday, firefighters were called to a one-story, wood-frame home owned by John and Joyce Crain at 0316 C.R. 52, said a news release from the Garrett Fire Department. The home is nearly two miles west of Garrett.

Firefighters arrived at 9:54 p.m. to find heavy fire in an attached garage, with more fire extending into the residence, said Garrett Fire Chief Dana Treesh.

The department was advised en route that one or two people might still be inside the house, Treesh said. His lead truck driver saw a glow from the fire at a distance and called for mutual aid.

The first firefighting crew found John Crain inside and brought him out of the burning home, Treesh said. Emergency personnel performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation for several minutes, but their efforts failed to revive him, Treesh added.

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Firefighters were unable to go back inside the house after part of the roof collapsed, Treesh said. Later, seven or eight firefighters carried out the body of a Joshua Crain, who was found in a hallway, making rescue difficult.

Joyce Crain reportedly was working in a computer room in the home when electrical power went off, Treesh said. She walked down the hallway and saw a flash. She and her husband went outside and found the garage on fire.

John Crain returned inside to see if he could fight the fire and get their son outside to safety, while Joyce Crain ran to the neighbors' house to call 911, Treesh said. Joyce Crain did not sustain any injuries from the fire.

An electrical service line into the home broke loose and began arcing, which hindered firefighting efforts for about 10 minutes until a utility crew arrived to cut off the power at the pole, Treesh said.

"The (structure) deteriorated so quickly, we could not go back inside — we went on defensive mode," Treesh said. He reported the fire to be under control within 20 minutes of firefighters arriving.

Treesh described the home and two vehicles parked outside the garage as total losses. The news release estimated total damage at $120,000. Firefighters reported heavy fire damage to the garage and attic, and heavy smoke and water damage to the entire structure.

The fire was caused by an electrical short in a crawlspace below the house that burned through the floor joists, according to Treesh. The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating.

Firefighters remained on the scene until 3:28 a.m. Thursday. Assisting at the scene were the Avilla and LaOtto fire departments, Garrett Fire Department Auxiliary, DeKalb EMS, Garrett Police Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Department and Indiana State Police. The Auburn Fire Department provided standby coverage at the Garrett Fire Station.

Funeral arrangements for John and Joshua Crain are pending at Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett.

Community mourns loss of father and son

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Neighbors and friends are mourning the loss of two Garrett men — John Crain and his son, Josh — who died in a house fire Thursday night.

Josh Crain, 29, had worked as an assembler for Alliance Industries in Garrett since 1999. Alliance director Lili Hand recalled his quiet nature.

"Josh was a joy to have in the workshop. He was very cooperative and did whatever job was asked of him," Hand said. "He was a man of few words, but his smiles said so much more. I remember when we were having a bad day here at work and simultaneously the staff said, 'I wish we had 100 Josh Crains.'

"We were blessed to have gotten to know Josh, and he will certainly be missed here at Alliance," Hand added.

Josh's father, John Crain, 65, retired last year as a machine operator at Electric Motors &

SEE **MOURNS**, PAGE **A10**

MOURNS: *Tight-knit family lost member in crash last year*

FROM PAGE A1

Specialties in Garrett. He succumbed to heavy smoke when he re-entered his burning home to rescue his son Thursday night.

"I am so sad," Kathy Kelham said of the loss of her neighbors and friends.

All of the Crains' family members lived in the same area southwest of Garrett and were known as a tight-knit group.

"They truly loved their family," Kelham said. She recalls Josh Crain's gentle personality.

"He moved slow, but he always had a smile," Kelham said.

Joyce Crain, wife of John Crain and mother of Josh, lost her father, Floyd Pfierman, when died last July in an automobile accident only a few miles away from her home.

"I can't imagine," Kelham said of the family's losses in the past year.

John Crain

GARRETT — John W. Crain, age 65, of Garrett, Ind., died at 10:10 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Crain

He was born September 19, 1945, in Angola, Ind., to James Crain and Betty (Lepley) Rather and they preceded him in death. He married Joyce Pfierman on September 6, 1969, in Garrett, Ind., and she survives.

He was a machine operator at Electric Motors and Specialties in Garrett, retiring in 2010.

He was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren and the Auburn Moose.

He was an avid bowler and loved to golf.

John is survived by his wife, Joyce Crain of Garrett, Ind.; his mother in-law, Rebekah Pfierman of Garrett, Ind.; a daughter, Dawn (Jason) Shull of Garrett, Ind.; and two granddaughters, Kayla and Haylee Shull of Garrett, Ind.

He is also survived by a brother, Phil Crain of California and two sisters, Gloria Rottger of Auburn, Ind., and Diana Parker of North Carolina.

He was joined in death by his son, Joshua I. Crain; his father in-law: Floyd Pfierman; his parents, Jame Crain and Betty Rather; and a brother, Jimmy Crain

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday, March 13, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

Services will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home with Pastor Brad Hardesty officiating.

Memorials are to the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Joshua Crain

GARRETT — Joshua Isaiah Crain, 28, of Garrett died at 9:52 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Crain

He was an assembler at Alliance Industries in Garrett.

He was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

He was born Sept. 14, 1982, in Auburn, Ind., to John W. and Joyce (Pfierman) Crain.

He is survived by his mother, Joyce Crain of Garrett, Ind.; a grandmother, Rebekah Pfierman of Garrett, Ind.; a sister, Dawn (Jason) Shull of Garrett; and two nieces.

He was joined in death by his father, John W. Crain; his grandfathers Floyd Pfierman and grandfather James Crain, and his grandmother, Betty Rather.

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home with Pastor Brad Hardesty officiating.

Memorials are to Alliance Industries.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

'He was a Clear Lake icon'

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — To those who knew him, Jon Fitzenrider was a Clear Lake icon.

Mr. Fitzenrider, 68, of Clear Lake died Feb. 24 following a battle with esophageal cancer.

He was a retired computer systems engineer, who took delight in his lake home, family, the Ohio State Buckeyes, flying small airplanes, and the outdoors.

The son of Clarence (deceased) and Annabelle Fitzenrider of Bryan, Ohio, Jon was Mary Jo Fitzenrider's husband and father to Andrew Fitzenrider (Stacey) of Seattle and Amy Fitzenrider (Stephen DeMaio) of Chicago.

"He was a very humble man. He was kind and gentle," Mary Jo said. "There is a hole in my heart. He found out he had esophageal cancer in July and I thought we'd beat it."

Mr. Fitzenrider graduated from Bryan High School in 1960 and attended The Ohio State University, where he was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1964. From there, he was hired as a systems engineer building mainframe computers for IBM and remained there throughout his 30-year career.

While in college — Jon attended OSU and Mary Jo attended Miami University — the couple started dating. They knew each other from high school. Jon brought Mary Jo to Clear Lake one weekend and she fell in love with it too and Jon. The couple was married 46 years.

Mr. Fitzenrider loved to fly and held a pilot's license and enjoyed flying small craft airplanes across Ohio and Indiana.

Mr. Fitzenrider

Jon and Mary Jo raised their family in Dublin, Ohio. While there, Mr. Fitzenrider refereed youth soccer and basketball games and followed Ohio State Buckeye football and basketball.

Mary Jo said when her husband was a boy, he spent virtually every weekend at Clear Lake. That extended into adulthood, because during the summers, the Fitzenrider family spent as much time as possible there. In 2003, he and Mary Jo built a new home on the lake and realized their lifelong dream of retiring there. "It was and still is the premiere quality lake," Mary Jo said. "(Around) 1960, was when his father purchased the current lot. They bought the cottage with everything inside it — old wicker furniture and the wood boat called 'Sassy Britches' — for about $10,000."

Mr. Fitzenrider was an active community member at the lake and served as a two-term president of the Clear Lake Association and as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. He was also a member of the Clear Lake Lion's Club and the Clear Lake Yacht Club.

"He was involved in the inner workings of the community," Mary Jo said. "He was into environmental causes. He is a Clear Lake icon … He was very robust."

Beyond swimming, skiing, sailing, boating and Mr. Fitzenrider enjoyed all aspects of Clear Lake life. He and his family loved camping and hiking in the national parks and exploring the country. In more recent years, Jon and Mary Jo spent their winters hiking and relaxing in the Phoenix area and snow skiing in the southwestern mountains of Colorado.

Mr. Fitzenrider also survived by two grandchildren, Ava Fitzenrider and Giuliana Grace DeMaio, as well as his mother, Annabelle Fitzenrider, and sister, Sue Compo.

"He loved being with his family. They always came first," Mary Jo said. "As sick as he was, he saw the birth of Giuliana (his infant granddaughter). She took a nap with him at Simon Cancer Center in Indianapolis."

Services were handled by Beams Funeral Home in Fremont.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, 5950 Gecowets Drive, Clear Lake, Fremont, IN 46737 or Cameron Hospital Foundation, 416 E. Maumee St., Angola, IN 46703. Please designate Regional Cancer Center of Angola on the contribution.

STAR
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Denise Conley-Williams

CEDARVILLE, Ind. — Denise Rene' Conley-Williams, 46, died Friday, March 11, 2011 at her home in Cedarville.

She was a homemaker.

She was a member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Fort Wayne and the Navy Club in New Haven.

Mrs. Conley-Williams

She was born April 8, 1964, in Fort Wayne, to Glenn Dennis and Marilyn (Foster) Conley.

Surviving are her mother, Marilyn Conley of Fort Wayne; three sons, Wessley Adams of Fort Wayne, Jonathan Diehl of Hicksville, Ohio, and Zachary Williams of New Haven; a daughter, Jennifer Williams of Fort Wayne; a brother, Rick Conley of Avilla; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Theresa and Christopher Koble of Garrett, and Melissa and Dave Coventry of Fort Wayne; companion, Billy Joe Moore of Leo; and her ex-husband, David Williams of New Haven.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Richard Shively officiating.

The family will receive friends from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Marilyn Conley.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

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Sharon Mavity

GARRETT — Sharon Mavity, 75 of Garrett, died Saturday, March 12, 2011, at her residence.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett. Calling will be Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. and one hour prior to the service Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Thomas Funeral Home.

William Strowmatt

GARRETT — William E. "Bill" Strowmatt, 84, of Garrett died Sunday, March 13, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Strowmatt

Mr. Strowmatt was a mechanic at North American Van Lines.

He was a WW II Navy veteran, serving from 1944-1947.

Mr. Strowmatt was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett, the Garrett American Legion and the Eagles.

He was born Dec. 24, 1926, in Burgettstown, Pa., to William S. and Florence (McClain) Strowmatt and they preceded him in death. He married Nancy Bonner on June 17, 1950, in Imperial, Pa., and she died Oct. 6, 2000.

Surviving are three sons, Bill (Judi) Strowmatt of Apache Junction, Ariz.; Jerry (Kathy) Strowmatt of Avilla and Tim (Susan) Strowmatt of Mishawaka; a daughter, Karen (Jim) Perry of Strabane, Pa.; a brother David Strowmatt of Pennsylvania; three sisters, Doris McElhaney of Pennsylvania; Deloris Farber or West Virginia and Mary Jo Redman of West Virginia; 14 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Garry Strowmatt.

Visitation will be from 4-9 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett and from 10-11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home with the Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery at Avilla.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Donald Litherland

AUBURN — Donald E. Litherland, 78, of Auburn died Monday, March 14, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Columbia City.

Mr. Litherland retired in March 1986 after more than 30 years with Dana Corp. of Fort Wayne.

He was a U.S. Navy, Korean Conflict veteran.

Mr. Litherland was a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He was born March 20, 1932, in Plainville to Charles and Jessie (Thacher) Litherland. He married Helen (Wood) Ott on Nov. 22, 1963, in Auburn and she died in 2002.

Surviving are two sons, Philip Litherland of Columbia City and Charles Litherland of Colon, Mich.; a daughter, Jean Boylan of Columbia City; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn with the Rev. Steven Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., and also one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday.

Preferred memorials can be directed to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Marguerite Dahman

NEW HAVEN — Marguerite "Marge" (Schaaf) Dahman, 94, of Fort Wayne died Monday, March 14, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Dahman

Born in Woodburn, she was the daughter of the late George and Magdalina Schaaf.

She was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker and dedicated caregiver, who enjoyed gardening, reading and sewing.

Early in her career she worked for General Electric and later retired from the Public Service Employees.

She was married to Eugene Dahman for almost 50 years, before he went to be with the Lord in 1986.

She is respected and lovingly remembered by her daughter, Sally Waters of Auburn; grandchildren, Lorri (Jerry) Haber, Jon (Sheri) Waters, and Jill Skaggs; three great-grandchildren; and brother, George Schaaf.

She was also preceded in death by her son, Thomas J. Dahman; a son-in-law, Steve Waters; and brothers, Glen and Al Schaaf.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. Thursday at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 202 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, with calling one hour prior. Pastor David Petersen will officiate.

Calling is also 2 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 St. Rd. 930 E., New Haven.

Burial is in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Preferred memorials are to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

David Case

ST. JOE — David D. Case, 57, died Monday, March 14, 2011, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Case had a career in law enforcement. He served as a Sylvania Township detective and patrolman and then was head of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas. He spent 20 years as a special agent for the CSX Railroad Police Department.

He was a 1972 graduate of Whitmer High School, 1977 graduate of the University of Toledo with a degree in law enforcement, and a 1978 graduate of the Police Academy. He has an honorary degree from Manchester College for dedicated service to the community.

He was born Jan. 31, 1954, in Toledo, Ohio, to Wayne and Loraine (Weinand) Case. He married Lou Ann Ball on March 12, 1976. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Ian (LaRea) Case and Dr. Aaron (Dawn) Case, all of Fort Wayne, and Stephen (Karen) Case of Toledo, Ohio; a daughter, Katie (Chadd) Coan of Indianapolis; five grandchildren; his mother, Loraine Case; and a brother, Michael Case of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his father and a brother, Wayne C. Case Jr.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio, with the Rev. Tom Eggold officiating. Burial will be in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Manchester College in memory of David Case. Send to: Office of College Advancement, c/o Manchester College, 604 W. College Ave., North Manchester, IN 46962.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Evelyn Roth

HAMILTON — Evelyn E. Roth, 93, of Hamilton died Tuesday afternoon, March 15, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Roth was a homemaker.

She was a graduate of Adams Central High School in Monroe, Ind.

Mrs. Roth attended the Hudson United Brethren Church and the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born August 29, 1917, in Berne, Indiana, to John and Gladys (Farlow) Ludy.

She married Leonard K. Roth on January 10, 1945. He passed away on October 26, 1979.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Alan R. and Beverly J. Roth of Auburn; a granddaughter and her husband, Melissa and John Monchilov; and three great-grandchildren, Taylor, Logen and Caleb.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a son, Steven in 1946.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 19, 2011, at Backesto Cemetery, rural Berne, Ind.

There will be no calling hours.

Memorials are to the Hudson United Brethren Church.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Family and friends may send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Thomas Solee

ALBION — Thomas F. "Thom" Solee, longtime Albion resident and owner of the Friendly Inn in Albion, died Sunday, March 13, 2011, at 9:15 a.m. with his wife by his side.

He was born on September 27, 1944, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Harvey T. Solee and Virginia (Mullins) Solee-Mikesell.

Thom came to the Albion area in 1985 and has owned the Friendly Inn in Albion for the past 26 years.

On November 8, 1975, he married Judy Hall in Bryan, Ohio. She survives in Albion.

He previously managed an appliance parts supply company in Fort Wayne, and was a musician for many years. He was a drummer with DJ and the DJ's in Auburn and Buck Lake Ranch. He was a member of Carl Pace and the Stagecoach Band and Millstone.

He loved music, especially blues and jazz, golf and hunting.

Surviving are his wife, Judy Solee of Albion; his mother, Virginia Solee-Mikesell of North Logan, Utah; two brothers, Denis (Charlotte) Solee of Pegram, Tennessee, and Terry (Stephanie) Root of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Samantha (David) Laffie of California and Carol (Larry) Broome of Hollywood, Maryland; a sister-in-law, Susan (Tom) Lingvai of Bryan, Ohio; a brother in-law, John (Jean) Hall of Bryan, Ohio; several nieces and nephews and two great-nieces.

He is preceded in death by his father, Harvey, and a son, Trent Solee on December 19, 1997.

A memorial service for Mr. Solee will be on Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 4 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel. Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday before the service at the funeral home.

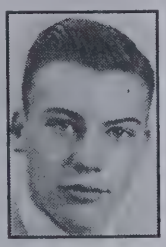
Private burial will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion.

The family requests that memorials be donated to Parkview-Whitley Hospice and to the DeKalb and Noble County Humane Shelters.

To sign a guest book go to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Donald Badman

WATERLOO — Donald E. Badman, 75, of Waterloo died Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Badman

Mr. Badman was a cabinet-maker with Grabill Cabinets in Grabill for more than 30 years before retiring in 2000.

He was a 1953 graduate of Butler High School and a U.S. Army veteran.

He was born May 13, 1935, in DeKalb County to Lawrence and Louise (Wise) Badman. He married Janet Brown on Aug. 12, 1960, in Waterloo and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Scott and Leisha Badman of St. Joe, Dave and Joselynn Badman of Butler, Bradley Badman of Waterloo and Michael and Karen Badman of Fort Wayne; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Betty Keyes of Waterloo and Joan Burns of Butler; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Russ and Pauline Badman of Auburn, Jack and Pat Badman of Waterloo and Richard and Charlene Badman of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, with John Schaaf officiating.

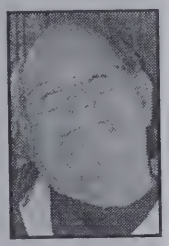
Calling will be three hours prior to the service Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital, Indianapolis.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Charles Sessford

FREMONT — Charles Edward Sessford, 68, died at 12:10 a.m. Thursday March 17, 2011, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Sessford

Mr. Sessford retired after 23 years from Schenkel & Son.

He was born in Auburn on March 9, 1943, to Charles E Sessford Jr. and Gladys (Jones) Sessford.

His wife Linda L. Sessford died on April 23, 2004.

Surviving are his companion, Jenny Gordon of Fremont; four daughters, Wendy and Robert Catterall of Angola, Roberta and Ronald Leland of Garrett, Sheila and John Sheets of Montpelier, Ohio, and Veronica and Paul Winchester of Angola; 22 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

A daughter, Teresa M. Bussing, also preceded him in death.

There will be no services or calling.

Burial at later date in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements. Send online condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com

Sylvia Myers

GARRETT — Sylvia L. Myers, 93, of Garret died Thursday, March 17, 2011, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 9-11 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home with Pastor Kathy Thompson officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Former Auburn Mayor Foley dies

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — John L. Foley, 85, a former mayor of Auburn, died Wednesday.

Foley served as mayor from 1972-75, after holding a seat on the city council for the previous four years. He was a Republican.

"I plan to remain active and interested in the civic affairs of Auburn," he said at the end of his term as mayor. He kept that pledge as a 22-year member of the DeKalb County Aviation Board and by serving on the Union Township Advisory Board from 2001 until his death.

Foley

When he announced his campaign for mayor in 1971, according to a report in The Star, Foley said his goal was economical and efficient operation of city government and his desire was to serve the community of Auburn.

Foley's term as mayor saw the rapid development of Auburn's west side and its business district. Utilities expanded, and the city built Grandstaff Drive and West Fifteenth Street.

"When he was mayor, there was quite a bit of construction going on," said Donald Mefford, who held the post of city attorney in Foley's administration. "He was of a bent, being in the foundry business, he kind of personally oversaw it.

"He was very active in improving the streets and the sanitation department," now known as water pollution control, Mefford added. "He was the mayor in the golden years."

"I feel we all did a good job," Foley wrote about his administration in column that appeared in The Star on his last day as mayor, Dec. 31, 1975.

He closed by saying, "I ask all Auburn citizens to take an active interest in your city government. … Let's all be proud of Auburn."

Foley was born in 1925 in Bryan, Ohio, and moved to Auburn in 1930, when his father, George Foley, started Foley Pattern Co.

John Foley graduated from Auburn High School 1943, attended St. Joseph College in

FOLEY: *Was named a Sagamore of the Wabash*

FROM PAGE A1

western Indiana for three years, served in the Air Force and returned home to join the family business. He became general manager of Foley Pattern in 1950 and developed the business by adding an aluminum foundry.

He married Jane Schooley in 1948 in Auburn at the Immaculate Conception Church, and they raised a family of eight children.

"He was an only child, and then he had seven daughters. That was probably a little confusing to him," said one of his daughters, Sarah Hannon of Muncie. All eight Foley children earned college degrees, she added.

Following his own advice to be an active citizen, Foley became involved with the community swimming pool, Jaycees, the YMCA, DeKalb County Free Fall Fair and Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival. He had a strong interest in genealogy.

Foley received one of Auburn's highest honors, the Allen Graber Citizenship Award, from the chamber of commerce in 1996. Gov. Frank O'Bannon presented him with Indiana's highest award in 2000, naming him a Sagamore of the Wabash.

John Foley

AUBURN — John Leo Foley, 85, of Auburn died Thursday, March 16, 2011, at home.

Mr. Foley

He was born November 22, 1925, in Bryan, Ohio, to George Leo and Sarah C. (Bailey) Foley and moved to Auburn in 1930. He graduated from Auburn High School in 1943 and then attended St. Joseph's College. He served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

John was employed by Foley Pattern Company from 1941, and served as President and Chairman of the Board until his retirement in 1991. He had been active in numerous civic organizations including serving as a past president of the Auburn Jaycees. He helped raise money to build the Auburn Community Pool, which was then donated to the City of Auburn in 1968, and served as pool manager from 1967 to 1972. John served with the Board of Directors of the DeKalb County YMCA and YMCA Foundation from 1971 to 1988, including as President from 1985 to 1987.

He was parade chairman for the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair from 1977 until 1985, and was a charter member of the ACD Museum. From 1980 to 1988, he was director of Family Shelter, Inc., a four-county battered women's shelter. He also served as president of RTS Leasing Company, and was traffic chairman of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival from 1977 to 1986.

At various times he served as Auburn's Park Commissioner, Police and Fire Commissioner, City Councilman from 1968 to 1972 and Mayor from 1972 to 1976. He was a member of the Auburn Board of Works, served on the DeKalb County Aviation Board from 1978 to 2000 and was appointed and later elected to the Union Township Advisory Board from 2001 to 2011.

John received the Allen Graber Citizenship Award in 1996 and the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash in 2000.

John married Jane Schooley on November 27, 1948, in Auburn and she survives. He is also survived by a son and seven daughters, Steve (Carol) Foley of Waterloo, Kathleen (Drew) Hadwal of Wichita Falls, Texas, Mary (John) Hemperly of Apex, N.C., Ellen (Dick) Stahly of Auburn, Sheila (Kevin) Myers of Conyers, Ga., Sarah (Mike) Hannon of Muncie, Pat (Arnie) Schon of Willow Springs, N.C. and Carolyn (Rick Dye) Foley of Auburn.

There are 17 grandchildren, Joseph Hadwal, Celia (Adam) O'Brien, Lauren (Chase) Cullipher, Josh Hemperly, Alison Hemperly, J.T. Foley, Hannah Foley, Brittany Myers, Shawn Myers, Sam Schon, Remi Schon, Jessica Dye, Nick Dye, Megan Dye, Troy (Kelly) Stahly, Bryn Hannon and Darby Hannon and there are two great-grandchildren, Logan Stahly and Taya Stahly.

A memorial service for the public will be held next Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. The family will also visit and receive friends after the service from 3 until 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be given in John's name to Eckhart Public Library, the Hoosier Air Museum or Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MARCH 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jane Potter loved all people

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Jane Potter was a people person and loved capturing life's special moments with her camera.

Miss Potter, 86, died Feb. 26, 2011. at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

As a child, she enjoyed spending time with her family and taking part in a variety of sports including roller skating, ice skating and bowling.

Miss Potter starred in a roller-skating show in 1940 with her younger sister, Barbara Capen. They performed around the region at stage shows and fairs for six years. Capen would lock her skates around her sister's neck and fly through the air as they skated. The show grew out of the family's love of skating.

"We went skating three times a week at Silver Moon Roller Rink," Capen said. "The whole family skated, except Mom, who came along to watch."

Miss Potter worked 38 years at the Auburn J.C. Penney store, starting her job there after graduating from Auburn High School. She made change for the store's sales transactions using an overhead system of cups on wires. She loved talking to the store's customers, making many friends over the years, Capen said.

"Whenever she met a new person, the first thing she would do is ask them, 'When's your birthday?'" said Capen. The reason — to send them a birthday card, of course.

"She loved correspondence," said Janet Potter, another of Miss Potter's sisters. Capen said her sister received as many cards as she sent, amassing quite a collection of sentimental notes from friends and neighbors through the years.

Even after retiring, Capen said, her sister wanted to continue working to be around people.

"She like to stay busy and connected," Capen said.

Janet Potter said her sister loved her co-workers and considered them extended family. It was customary for Jane Potter to buy gifts and trinkets for children of her co-workers and neighbors.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jane Potter sits at her desk in this March 1953 photo at the old Auburn J.C. Penney store on North Main Street. Potter worked making change in the office, using an overhead trolley-cup system. Sales clerks would unscrew the top of a cup and place coins inside, while bills and sales receipts were clipped to the outside of the cup and sent to Potter with the pull of a cord. Potter would make change for each sale and return the cup. She worked for J.C. Penney for 38 years.

"No matter where she worked or lived, Jane would get gifts for the kids for Christmas, Easter and everything," Capen said.

Capen said her sister also doted on her only niece, Capen's daughter, Mary Ann McClain.

"She just thought the world of Mary Ann," Janet Potter said. "She got a niece and spoiled her like crazy."

Being so full of life, it was no coincidence her sister took her camera everywhere she went, Janet Potter said. She would carry her camera in her purse, so she never missed a chance for a photo. Capen said her sister would print the pictures and pass them out to all of her friends.

"She loved to take (pictures)," Capen said. "But she never wanted to take them of scenery. She always wanted a person in it."

Janet Potter said her sister still took photos while she was in the nursing home, commemorating her time there with snapshots of her therapists, nurses and other staff members. She even convinced a special staff member to bring a daughter in for a picture.

Capen said she will continue her sister's tradition and pass out her sister's last photos to the Betz Nursing Home staff, so they can remember her for the loving, caring person she was.

"There was no one else like her," Capen said. "That's for sure."

STAR
MARCH 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Ervin Fetters

WAWAKA — Ervin J. Fetters Sr., 79, of Wawaka and formerly of St. Joe, died Friday March 18, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Dec. 4, 1931, in St. Joe to Paul and Ellen (White) Fetters.

Mr. Fetters worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 30 years, retiring in 1979. He was an active member of the UAW Local 57. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in the Military Police from 1954-56.

He married Ruth Trenary on Dec. 14, 1952, in Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and she survives.

Also surviving are three children, Douglas Fetters and his wife, Cher, of St. Joe, Dora Ross and her husband, Charles, of Elkhart and Ervin "Jake" Fetters Jr. and his wife, Cheryl, of Roanoke, Va.; eight grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; two sisters, Ruth Hart and her husband, Lester, of Antwerp, Ohio, and Esther Gandee and her husband, Steve, of Palm Coast, Fla.; and a brother, Arnold Fetters and his wife, Donna, of LaVonia, Ga.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at www.fellerandclark.com.

Vanetta Zimmerman

CRESTLINE, Ohio — Vanetta H. Zimmerman 92, of Crestline died Monday, March 21, 2011, at Crestline Nursing Home following a brief illness.

Mrs. Zimmerman

Mrs. Zimmerman was born in Shelby, on April 28, 1918, to the late Lewis and Mildred (Elson) Davis. She married Roscoe C. Zimmerman on August 17, 1940, and he preceded her on Feb. 5, 1974.

Vanetta resided five years in Crestline with her daughter, coming from Garrett, Ind., where she attended First Church of Christ Church.

She enjoyed baking, especially pies.

She is survived by one daughter, Annette Smith of Crestline; several nieces and nephews, Joan (Zimmerman) and Ervin Swartz of Bluffton, Ind., Marilyn Reynolds Neal of Solvang, Calif., Richard and Barbara Reynolds of Gobles, Mich., Robert and Mary Patrick of Everton, Ariz., and Bruce Patrick of Tyler, Texas; two brothers-in-law, Ralph and Tressie Zimmerman and George and Marjorie Zimmerman; and two sisters-in-law, Ruth Z. Reynolds and Mabel and Stanley Patrick.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Everett Smith.

Friends may call Wednesday, March 23, 2011, from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the Mark A. Schneider Funeral Home, Crestline. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, at the funeral home with the Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Kline officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett, Ind.

On line condolences may be made to the family at masfh.com

Robert White

BUTLER — Robert L. White 72, died Monday, March 21, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

A graveside memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton

Memorials are to the family in care of Robert N. White, P.O. Box 15 Butler, IN 46721.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

Charles Sessford

FREMONT — Charles Edward Sessford, 68, died at 12:10 a.m. Thursday, March 17, 2011, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Sessford

Mr. Sessford retired after 23 years from Schenkel & Son.

He was born in Auburn on March 9, 1943, to Charles E. Sessford Jr. and Gladys (Jones) Sessford.

His wife Linda L. Sessford died on April 23, 2004.

Surviving are his companion, Jenny Gordon of Fremont; four daughters, Wendy and Robert Catterall of Angola, Bobby and Ron Leland of Garrett, Shiela and John Sheets of Montpelier, Ohio, and Veronica and Paul Winchester of Angola; two stepsons, Bryan Gramling of Indinaa and Scott Gramling of Angola; a stepdaughter, Melissa Pawson of Angola; 22 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

A daughter, Teresa M. Bussing, and a son, Charles William Sessford, also preceded him in death.

There will be no services or calling.

Burial at later date in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements. Send online condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com

Joseph Carper

AUBURN — Joseph E. Carper, 89, died Monday March 21, 2011 at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

He was born December 10, 1921, in Auburn to Howard L. and Mina P. (Mitchell) Carper.

He was an Operations Supervisor for 37 years for Northern Indiana Fuel and Light Company in Auburn, retiring in 1989.

He was a WWII U.S. Navy veteran. He served as a Chief Metal Smith from 1941 to 1947.

Mr. Carper was a 60-year member of the Garrett American Legion Post 178 and a life member of the Garrett VFW.

He married Eleanore M. Pfeffer on Nov. 1, 1944, in Chicago and she died in 1989.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Arlene M. and William Knott of LaOtto; three grandchildren, Tim (JoEllen) Knott of Garrett, Rob (Rebecca) Knott of Garrett and Heidi (Kevin) Crowl of Auburn; seven great-grandchildren, Jake (Mallory) Clifford, Colby Knott, Jordyn Knott, Katie Knott, Kallie Knott, Logan Rinehold and Josie Rinehold; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Ralph and Wilma Carper of Auburn and Aden Carper of Auburn; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Ellen and Orville Shyrock of Fort Wayne and Sally Martin of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and seven brothers, Robert L. Carper, Harold L. Carper, Arthur H. Carper, Samuel E. Carper, Iden Carper, Charlie Carper and John Carper.

Services are at 3 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is four hours prior to the service Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to County Line Church of God Worship Arts or DeKalb County Fair Association.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert White

BUTLER — Robert L. White, 72, of Butler died Monday, March 21, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

He was born February 6, 1939, in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, to Robert and Ella (Caldwell) White.

Robert is survived by a son, Robert N. White of Butler; special extended family, Jarvis and Anita (Jordan) Hollar of Waterloo, Ken Jordan of Hamilton, Warren D. Jordan of Kentucky and Mark Jordan of Ohio; a sister, Maria Hatton of Ohio; four grandchildren, Michael White, Shelby White, Joshua White and Dylan White; and a great-grandchild, Renseme White.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a special friend Ida Jordan; a sister, Grace Bradley; and a brother, Franklin D. White.

A family graveside service will be held on Friday at 4 p.m. at Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton, with the Rev. Stanley Hammond officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the family in care of Robert N. White, P.O. Box 15 Butler, IN 46721.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

Juanita Rhodes

GARRETT — Juanita N. Rhodes, 89, of Garrett died Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at The Cedars in Leo.

Mrs. Rhodes

Mrs. Rhodes had worked at GE in Fort Wayne for 39 years, retiring in 1982.

She was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

She was born Aug. 23, 1921, in Garrett to Fred and Emma (Gieser) Brinkman. She married Kenneth W. Rhodes on June 25, 1950, in Garrett. He died Feb. 18, 1986.

She is survived by a brother in-law, Chester Smith; a sister in-law, Margaret Brinkman; nephews Steve Culler, Paul Culler, Sam Culler, Fred Smith and Jeff Smith; nieces Joyce Bradley, Rosemary Henderson, Dottie Pinnick, Barbara Balgoyen and Karen Brinkman; and several great nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Charles and Paul Brinkman; and two sisters, Ruth Culler and Betty Smith.

Funeral services will be at noon Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

To send a condolence or sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Deemer) Adams. They survive in Atlanta, Georgia. On August 1, 1970, in Thompson, Ohio, she married Lyman Thayer. He survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a sister, Mollie Burrows of Atlanta, Georgia; a sister/cousin, Janet Dailey of Fort Wayne; her daughters-by-choice, Pam Ordway of Auburn, Becky Fortriede of Fort Wayne, and Susie Ginger of Kendallville; and her grandchildren-by-choice, Alyssa Ordway, Tristan Ordway, Peter Fortriede, Zachary Fortriede, Evan Fortriede, Jack Fortriede, Alyssa Ginger, and Jonathan Ginger.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Alga and Esther (Gibson) Adams.

Funeral services will be Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 11 a.m. in St. John Lutheran Church, 301 S. Oak St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel and the Rev. Dr. Robert Shriner officiating.

Calling is Friday, March 25, 2011, from 4 to 8 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, and one hour before services at the church on Saturday.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

"And we know that in all things [including…] God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Vanetta Zimmerman

CRESTLINE, Ohio — Vanetta H. Zimmerman 92, of Crestline died Monday, March 21, 2011, at Crestline Nursing Home following a brief illness.

Mrs. Zimmerman

Mrs. Zimmerman was born in Shelby, on April 28, 1918, to the late Lewis and Mildred (Elson) Davis. She married Roscoe C. Zimmerman on August 17, 1940, and he preceded her on Feb. 5, 1974.

Vanetta resided five years in Crestline with her daughter, coming from Garrett, Ind., where she attended First Church of Christ Church.

She enjoyed baking, especially pies.

She is survived by one daughter, Annette Smith of Crestline; and several nieces and nephews, Joan (Zimmerman) and Ervin Swartz of Bluffton, Ind., Marilyn Reynolds Neal of Solvang, Calif., Richard and Barbara Reynolds of Gobles, Mich., Robert and Mary Patrick of Everton, Ariz., and Bruce Patrick of Tyler, Texas.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Everett Smith; two brothers-in-law, Ralph and Tressie Zimmerman and George and Marjorie Zimmerman; and two sisters-in-law, Ruth Z. Reynolds and Mabel and Stanley Patrick.

Marcia Thayer

KENDALLVILLE — Marcia Lynn (Adams) Thayer, 62, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, March 19, 2011, at 1:40 p.m. in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Thayer

She lived in Fort Wayne seven years, coming from Kendallville where she lived for 11 years. She was a teacher and a homemaker.

Marcia graduated in 1968 from Concordia Junior College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She also graduated in 1970 from Concordia College in Nebraska, with a bachelor's degree in education and English literature.

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville.

A note Marcia wrote in her Bible states, *"Celebrate grace; make disciples; make a difference."*

She was born March 27, 1948, in Sidney, Ohio, to John and Lois (Nichols

Visitation was Wednesday at the Mark A. Schneider Funeral Home, Crestline.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. today, Thursday, March 24, at the funeral home with Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Kline officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. today at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett, Ind.

On line condolences may be made to the family at masfh.com

Frank Bueker Jr.

AUBURN — Frank Henry Bueker Jr., 92, of Auburn died March 24, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Bueker

He was born in Fort Wayne on May 24, 1918 to Frank H. and Adella (Ehrman) Bueker Sr.

Frank was a 1936 graduate of North Side High School in Fort Wayne and was a 1940 graduate of the University of Miami Florida.

He served in the South Pacific during WWII in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, 866 Engineers, from 1942 to 1946.

He was a Public Accountant for 2 years then Vice President-Treasurer for Messenger Corporation in Auburn from 1946 to 1980. He was Accountant for Eckhart Public Library from 1980 to 2005.

Frank loved music and he played the French horn for New Sentinel Boys Band, Fort Wayne Philharmonic from 1946 to 1985, Mizpah Shrine Band for 43 years, Auburn Community Band for 25 years, American Legion Post 47 Band for 59 years and Knights Templar Band of Fort Wayne.

He was a member of National Association of Accountants of Fort Wayne, DeKalb Memorial Hospital Corporate Board from 1964 to 2011, Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum volunteer from 1980 to 2008, Auburn JC's, Auburn Lions Club for 58 years, Sol D Bayless Masonic Lodge # 359 from 1942 to 2011, lifetime member of the Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne Mizpah Shrine, Cedar Creek Shrine Club, Fort Wayne Knights Templar, American Legion Post # 97 of Auburn, Fort Wayne Musicians Association and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia of the University of Miami Florida

Frank married Helen Elizabeth Kreischer on May 24, 1947, in the Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne and she survives in Auburn.

He is also survived by a son, Stephen Bueker of Easton, Pa.; a daughter, Karen Bueker of Auburn; a granddaughter, Nicole McKean and her husband Ben of St. Joe ;and great-grandchildren, Nikalys McKean and Rylie McKean.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday, March 28, 2011, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also 1 hour prior to the service at the church Monday.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be directed to St Mark's Lutheran Church, Shriners Children's Hospital or DeKalb County Council on Aging.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Bruce Williams

AUBURN — Bruce E. Williams, 73, died Thursday, March 24, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Williams was a union arbitrator for the UAW.

He graduated in 1955 from Auburn High School.

Mr. Williams was a member of the UAW and Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #1107. He received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Gov. Evan Bayh.

He was born April 23, 1937, in Muncie to Harold and Eva Mae (Miller) Williams. He married Carol Vogts on Nov. 18, 1989, in Columbia City and she died Jan. 8, 2008.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Rhonda and Stanley Freed of Auburn; a son, Aric Williams of Wolcottville; three stepchildren, Tabitha (Greg) Lanning of Warsaw, Tiffini Vogts of Fort Wayne and Todd Vogts of Fort Wayne; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister Jackie (Ralph) Carnahan of Auburn; a brother, Hal (Marlene) Williams of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Pastor David Cripe officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be given to Wesley Health Care Center or Loyal order or the Moose Lodge # 1107.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

John Foley

AUBURN — A memorial service for John L. Foley, 85, of Auburn will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

The family will visit and receive friends after the service from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Eckhart Public Library, the Hoosier Air Museum or the Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum.

Mr. Foley died March 16, 2011.

SuAnn Gray

GARRETT — SuAnn Gray, 42, of Garrett died Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at her home.

Private services were held at Pinnington-McComb Funeral and Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Naomi Darr

EDON, Ohio — Naomi L. Darr, age 90, of Edon, Ohio, died at 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at Bryan Care and Rehabilitation Center in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Darr was a 1938 graduate of Edgerton High School.

She was a member of the Edon American Legion Auxiliary, Elliot Chapter #271 Order of the Eastern Star, and the Edgerton Church of Christ.

Naomi L. Darr was born on October 7, 1920, in Edgerton, Ohio, the daughter of Howard and Mary (Sindel) Hootman. She married Gerald A. Darr on July 8, 1941, in Georgetown, Ohio, and he preceded her in death on December 12, 2000.

Mrs. Darr is survived by two daughters, Linda (Van) Gehl, of Auburn, Indiana, and Carol (Fred) Moore, of Defiance, Ohio; one son, Thomas (Kathryn) Darr, of Plymouth, Wisconsin; nine grandchildren, Thomas Darr, Tim (Lisa) Darr, Tad (Marie) Darr, Kristin (Darr) and Joe Hoem, Melynda (Gehl) and Eric Deardorf, Melissa (Gehl) and Jamie Held, Kami (Moore) and Eric Diehl, Todd (Ann) Moore, and Reid (Jasmine) Moore; and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Audrew and Gaylord Hootman, and one sister, Velta Bechtol.

Graveside services for Naomi L. Darr will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 11 a.m. in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton, with D.V. Dillinger, minister, officiating.

Memorials in the name of Naomi L. Darr may be given to a charity of the donor's choice.

Krill Funeral Service in Edon is handling arrangements.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

STAR
MARCH 26 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Eloise Vachon

AUBURN — Eloise Vachon, 92, died Friday, March 25, 2011 at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born in Corunna, Indiana, June 2, 1918, to Merle and Dora (McCullough) Holmes.

Eloise was a graduate of Waterloo High School.

She retired as a bank teller for the former City National Bank in Auburn.

She married Willard "Bill" Vachon on July 28, 1938, in Angola. He died July 26, 1984.

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Karen and Fred Diehl of Auburn and Darla Krafft of Butler; four granddaughters, Jennifer (Scott) Ewaskowitz of Schofield, Wis., Debra (Rick) Weathers of Simpsonville, S.C., Shayna (Mark) Stucky of Warren, Ind., and Melissa (Danny Hankey) Krafft of Butler, Ind.; and seven great-grandchildren, Nicholas Ewaskowitz, Noah Weathers, Joshua Weathers, Harrison Weathers, Blake Stucky, Jesse Hankey and Jada Hankey.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two brothers, Homer Holmes and Harry Holmes; and a sister, Helene Holmes.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial is in Corunna Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed to DeKalb County Humane Shelter or Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Faith, family and country

'There was never a dull moment' with Jack Kurtz

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

ALBION — Jack Lindy Kurtz was proud of his faith, his loyalty to his family and his service to his country in the U.S. Army during the World War II cleanup and in combat with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

Faith, family and country would be the guiding principles for his life.

Mr. Kurtz, 80, of Albion and Avilla, died Sunday, March 6, 2011.

"We were friends for over 60 years," said Robert Coil of Albion. "We fished, scuba-dived and camped together. There was never a dull moment with Jack. I miss him like a brother."

Jack Kurtz

At his funeral at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Albion, Pastor Phyllis Smoot gathered the young children to talk about the Kurtz family patriarch.

"You know him as Grandpa Jack, don't you?" she asked. "Yes. Grandpa Jack," they replied enthusiastically. That's how many of those in Noble County who crossed paths with Mr. Kurtz came to call him — Grandpa Jack.

His military service and devotion to family stemmed from his adventurous teenage years, said his daughter, Sherri DeLong. Kendallville Police officer Ben Wilondek approached Mr. Kurtz's father and told him the military would make his son become a man, so he signed for his son to join the U.S. Army. When his time was up in the Army, he re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

"Dad believed in his country and what it stood for," DeLong said. "His patriotism ran deep."

He was a life member of the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville, a past chaplain of the post and a faithful member of the funeral honor guard team for many years. He was also a life member of American Legion Post 381 in Rome City.

Scuba diving was one of Mr. Kurtz's favorite activities. He and Coil started the Noble County Rescue Dive Team.

"We dived in lakes all around the area. He taught me scuba diving," Coil said. "We thought, 'Why don't we get a rescue team started?' and we talked to fire departments about it," he said. That was in the 1960s, and today most area fire departments have rescue divers.

Mr. Kurtz began the Indiana Diving Council and was a member of the Fort Wayne Scuba Diving Club.

He was a Notre Dame fan and an avid golfer.

"Golf was his game," said his granddaughter, Lindy Munson. "In the book of Jack, golf was a year-round sport. If the course was open, he was there." DeLong said her father started many young golfers with their first set of clubs.

Munson said Grandpa Jack was an entrepreneur and a shopper who bought and sold anything.

"If he really liked something, he didn't just buy one, but he bought one of every color and style and then would turn around and sell it to you," she said.

He was a man of style and loved to dance. Grandpa Jack enjoyed eating, and believed that peanut butter made everything taste better, recalled Munson.

He had a song, saying or jingle for everything and a nickname for everyone, she said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jack Kurtz enjoyed golf. His granddaughter Lindy Munson said, "In the book of Jack, golf was a year-round sport."

"Above all, he was mostly proud of his family. He had a knack for making each of us feel like we were his favorite," Munson said.

He was a member of Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church near Kendallville and a past president of the church council.

Mr. Kurtz is survived by his wife, Donna Lee Kurtz of Albion, a son, two daughters, nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, two brothers, a sister and a brother-in-law.

He is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Kendallville.

Paul McDonald

CORUNNA — Paul J. McDonald, 97, died Saturday, March 26, 2011, at his home in Corunna.

He was born Feb. 16, 1914, in Corunna to the late Archie F. and Bertha G. (Oster) McDonald.

Mr. McDonald

Mr. McDonald worked for 23 years on the New York Central Railroad, then for 13 years with Stanadyne in Garrett. He was a member of the Corunna United Brethren Church.

He married Mary Ellen Roop on June 12, 1935, in Corunna, and she died Oct. 22, 1992.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Sharon McDonald of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Brenda Martin of Corunna and Janice and Jerry Worden of Corunna; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, three great-great-granddaughters and a sister, Irene Francis of Garrett.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Corunna United Brethren Church with the Rev. Kevin Whitacre, the Rev. Jason Hollopeter and the Rev. Jim Jillette officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo and one hour prior to the service Wednesday at the church.

Memorials are to the Corunna United Brethren Church. To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Jerald Furrow

WATERLOO — Jerald E. Furrow, 46, of Waterloo died Saturday, March 26, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. Mr. Furrow was severely burned in a house fire three weeks ago.

He was born in Auburn April 30, 1964. His father, James Furrow, survives in Bryan, Ohio, and his mother, Shelia (Clear) Ulery, survives in Waterloo.

He is also survived by a daughter, Heather DePew of Auburn, and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Dan and Barbara Furrow of Waterloo and Everett Furrow of Waterloo.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Cedar Lake Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is three hours prior to the service Tuesday from noon to 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to the family in care of Shelia Ulrey. To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Richard Beatty

AUBURN — Richard Thomas Beatty, 89, went home to be with the Lord on March 28, 2011, with his loving family at his side. Dick was born on February 7, 1922, in Kokomo, Indiana, to George Dewey Beatty and Fannie Elizabeth (Thomas) Beatty. After graduating from Kempton High School in 1940, he worked at Delco Remy in Anderson before enrolling for the U.S. Naval flight training school. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1945 as an antisubmarine pilot both in the Atlantic and Pacific for which he received several commendations including the Distinguished Flying Cross. He continued to serve in the U.S. Naval Reserves until 1956.

Mr. Beatty

Following his military service, Dick pursued higher education at Indiana University and graduated with a BA degree in economics. He worked for Marathon Oil for 22 years, before moving to Auburn, Indiana, in 1972, where he worked as general manager of S&S Oil. He was licensed as a real estate broker and became general manager of DeKalb County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company until his retirement.

Dick was known for his kind and generous nature and was an active participant in Auburn civic life. Besides running a campaign for mayor of Auburn in 1982, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Mizpah Shrine, Auburn Lion's Club, and the Auburn Improvement Association. He also served as the president of the Mutual Insurance Companies Association of Indiana and the Auburn Plan Commission. He and his wife, Charlotte L. Beatty, were founding members of the St. Andrew's Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Richard was married to Virginia Rose Kashner until her death in 1970. He married Charlotte Liddell of Auburn, Indiana, on February 26, 1977, and had a rich and full life. He is survived by his family: wife, Charlotte Liddell Beatty of Auburn; children, David Dewey (Mary Blackburn) Beatty of Indianapolis, Karla Susan (Steve Thompson) Beatty of Mariposa, Calif., Ann Deborah (Robert) Panah of Fishers, Ind., Christopher Claude Beatty of Jacksonville, Fla., Candace (Ralph) Imbody of Fort Wayne, Daniel Liddell Cooper of Akron, Ohio, and Michael (June) Cooper of Bedford, Ind. His grandchildren include the following: Elizabeth Blackburn Beatty, Sarah Blackburn Beatty, Stephen Thomas Panah, Christine Rose Panah, Ryan Thompson, Danielle Imbody, Ashley (Michael) Vic, and Jake Cooper. He also has a great-granddaughter, Nona Skrzypczak. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Barbara Beatty of Gainesville, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Nancy Hefflemire, Helen Hiatt, Mary Rose Butterfield, George Lewis Beatty, and Charles Lee Beatty.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 31, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. Thursday prior the service. Pastor Glen Francis of the St. Andrew's Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be officiating assisted by Pastor Al Black. Burial will take place in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn, with military graveside services being conducted by the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Visitation will also take place from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Andrew's Evangelical Presbyterian Church or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Julia Henney

ANGOLA — Julia Henney, 48, of Angola passed away at her home March 27, 2011.

She was born Aug. 13, 1962, the daughter of the late Kay Smyth and John Janiga.

Mrs. Henney

She loved to cherish her memories; husband, Allen, of nine years; stepsons, Aric Henney of New York and Matthew of Milledgeville, Ga.; her stepfather, Jim Smyth; her two sisters, Susan Choate and Ali Wheeler; a brother, Roger Smyth; and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was always happy when her hands were in the dirt tending to her flowers and garden.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Jeff Alexander officiating.

The family will receive friends from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to PSI RHO Sorority, 735 S. Brookside Park, Hamilton, IN 46742.

Joe Taylor

AVILLA — Joe (Joseph) Taylor, the Cowboy Auctioneer, of Avilla, Ind., surrounded by his family, was called to pick his guitar and sing for his Heavenly Father Thursday, March 24, 2011.

Mr. Taylor

He was born May 11, 1921, the son of Bertha (Skaggs) and Joseph D. Taylor in Portsmouth, Ohio.

He worked 40 years at General Electric, retiring in 1981 but was best known for his career in country music. In 1948, he formed his band known as the Indiana Red Birds (the Red Birds).

Surviving are his son, Dan (Chris) Taylor of Fort Wayne; his daughter, Paula Jo Taylor (John) Marqueling of Nashville, Tenn; his partner in the Red Birds, Patty Corbat, of Avilla; his grandchildren, Jesse, Joey, Amanda, Brendan, Brittany and Bryce; his three stepgrandchildren, Matt, Andy and Danielle; his great-grandchildren, Hunter, Taylor and Rylee; his beloved Pomeranian, Dolly, and his countless friends.

A celebration of life service is at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2011 at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road. Mass of Christian burial will follow at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 31, at St. Patrick's Church in Arcola with Father Dan Leeuw officiating.

Burial will be in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Arcola.

Visitation is one hour prior to the services and also 6-9 today, Tuesday, March 29, and 1-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, SPCA's of Noble or Allen County or Masses.

Virginia Manon

AUBURN — Virginia M. "Ginny" Manon, 79, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Manon

Mrs. Manon was a homemaker and also worked at various retail stores in the Auburn area.

She was also a longtime volunteer at the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Gift Shop.

She was born May 29, 1931, in Garrett to Roman and Laura (Blotkamp) Steigmeyer.

She married Robert D. "Bob" Manon on Sept. 23, 1950, in Garrett. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Terry and Lynda Manon of Danville, Ky., David and Pam Manon of Auburn, Duaine and Patty Manon of Kendallville, and Jeffery and Sandy Manon of Longwood, Fla.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Julie and Gene Troyer of Ashley, and Amy Manon of Menasha, Wis.; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandson; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Patricia Frymer of Auburn and Sharon and Neal Simon of Garrett; a brother-in-law, Richard Wilcoxson; and a sister-in-law, Sharon Steigmeyer.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; six brothers; and a sister.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling one hour prior at the church. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, 50 E. 91st Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MARCH 31 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Andy Kintzel

FORT WAYNE — Andy LeRoy Kintzel, 26, died Tuesday, March 29, 2011, in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Todd Steere officiating.

Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Saturday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Christi Cossait.

STAR
APRIL 1 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Edmund Mezydlo

GARRETT — Edmund J. Mezydlo, 74, of Westerville, Ohio, and formerly of Garrett, Ind., died on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Westerville.

He was born December 30, 1936, in Chicago, Ill., to Edmund and Hilaria (Vanderbosch) Mezydlo and they preceded him in death. He married Amber Kay Cramer on July 6, 1957, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She passed away on April 20, 2008.

Ed was a 23-year United States Air Force veteran having served during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked another 26 years as a civil servant with the F-16 Aircraft Technical Order Division before his retirement in 2004.

Edmund was a member of the F-16 Hall of Fame (Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base).

He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and loved classic movies and writing his own songs.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Jean Mezydlo of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Matt and Sharie Mezydlo of Westerville, Ohio; a granddaughter, Jane and Craig Marynik and a granddaughter, Jessie Mezydlo; and great-grandchildren; Lily, Julian, Kaysie and Grady Marynik.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, April 4, 2011, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Ind., at noon with military graveside honors by the U.S. Air Force.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2011, from 3-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the donor's choice

To send a condolence or to sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Donald Newfer

AUBURN — Donald E. Newfer, 64, died Thursday, March 31, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Newfer was employed at Elmview Barber Shop in Fort Shawnee, Ohio, and Lima Baptist Temple in Lima, Ohio, before moving to Fort Wayne. He worked as a senior design engineer for 27 years at Wieland Furniture, a division of Souder Furniture of Grabill.

He graduated from Alger High School in 1965 then graduated from Toledo Barber School.

Mr. Newfer was an active member and elder of Prairie Chapel Bible Church in Oakwood, Ohio.

He was born Jan. 27, 1947, in Alger, Ohio, to Arnold and Wanda (Rutledge) Newfer. He married Marjorie Jean Carnahan on May 25, 1985, in Fort Wayne and she survives.

Also surviving are two brothers, Norman (Della) Newfer of Cridersville, Ohio, and Gary (Sally) Newfer of Belle Center, Ohio; two sisters, Nina (Dr. Melvin) Monroe of Lima, Ohio, and Barbara Brown of Harrod, Ohio; a brother-in-aw, Calvin (Miriam) Carnahan of Howe; an uncle, Eldon (Barbara) Rutledge of Proctorville, Ohio; several cousins, nieces; nephews; and great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Fletcher and Laura (Chiles) Newfer, Mae (Rutledge) McCann, and Ora Rutlege; a brother, Walter Newfer; an infant sister; and a brother-in-law, David Brown.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Pastor Earl Chapman officiating.

Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be form 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home and also 1 hour prior to the service Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are to Prairie Chapel Bible Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Edmund Mezydlo

GARRETT — Edmund J. Mezydlo, 74, of Westerville, Ohio, and formerly of Garrett, Ind., died on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Westerville.

He was born December 30, 1936, in Chicago, Ill., to Edmund and Hilaria (Vanderbosch) Mezydlo and they preceded him in death. He married Amber Kay Cramer on July 6, 1957, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She passed away on April 20, 2008.

Ed was a 23-year United States Air Force veteran having served during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked another 26 years as a civil servant with the F-16 Aircraft Technical Order Division before his retirement in 2004.

Edmund was a member of the F-16 Hall of Fame (Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base).

He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and loved classic movies and writing his own songs.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Jean Mezydlo of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Matt and Sharie Mezydlo of Westerville, Ohio; a granddaughter, Jane and Craig Marynik and a granddaughter, Jessie Mezydlo; and great-grandchildren; Lily, Julian, Kaysie and Grady Marynik.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, April 4, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Ind., at noon with military graveside honors by the U.S. Air Force.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2011, from 3-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the donor's choice

To send a condolence or to sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ruth Swogger

KENDALLVILLE — Ruth (Smith) Swogger passed away peacefully at the Lutheran Life Villages Nursing Home in Kendallville on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 12:10 a.m. She had been in failing health for some time.

Mrs. Swogger

She was born in Kendallville on April 22, 1913 to John and Mary (Ries) Smith. She was a graduate of Kendallville High School in 1931. On October 13, 1934, she married Paul Robert Eshelman at Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, Ind. He preceded her in death on October 28, 1976. She later married Walter Clyde Swogger at Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, Ind. on October 7, 1982. He preceded her in death on February 25, 1995.

Mrs. Swogger was a homemaker and worked for a few years at Kendallville Hardware. She loved making quilts, sewing and baking. She also enjoyed going to garage sales with her best friend Cinnie Swogger. She was a long time member of Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, Ind. where she served on the Altar Guild and Ladies Aid Society and the LWML.

She is survived by two daughters, Eleanor (Hubert) Kugler of Butler, and Sharon (DeWayne) Lockwood of Waterloo; a son, Paul Wayne (Bev) Eshelman; a daughter-in-law, Cathy Eshelman of Rome City; a step son, David (Carol) Swogger of Corunna; eight grandchildren, Tonda (Jeff) Holsinger of Wolcottville, Troy (Sheila) Lockwood of Auburn, Heath Eshelman of Kendallville, Kama Kugler of Clermont, Florida, Todd (Kelli) Lockwood of Butler, Wini (David) Handshoe of LaGrange, Christine (Scott) Koegler of Kendallville, and Heather (Joshua) Molen of Rome City; two step grandchildren, Dan (Sharmin) Swogger of Wolcottville, and Denise (Brad) Deetz of Corunna; 12 great-grandchildren, Desiree' (Stephen) Reynolds of Rome City, Carlee Holsinger of Wolcottville, Zachary, Nicholas, Jordon and Taylor Koegler of Kendallville, Alexandria, Trevor and Elizabeth Molen of Rome City, Keeton Lockwood of Fort Wayne, Kerissa Lockwood of Butler and Heiden Lockwood or Auburn; eight step-great-grandchildren, Brooke-destinee Lockwood of Auburn, Ben Marchus of Butler, Alexis and Grace Hooks of Corunna, Christopher Boles, Blake and Landon Swogger of Wolcottville, and Tabethia Handshoe of Kentucky.

She is also survived by two nieces, Barbara Krehl and Virginia (William) Percifield, and nephews Bill (Babs) Smith, Bob (Mary) Smith, Bud (Ruth) Smith and Jim (Betty) Smith.

In addition to her husbands, a son, Hugh Eshelman, parents, John and Mary Smith, two sisters, Bernice Wible and Agness Kennel, and three brothers, Arthur, Claude and George Smith preceded her in death.

Services will be at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 1 p.m. with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rev. Al Wingfield of Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, will officiate. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Casketbearers will be Heath Eshelman, Jeff Holsinger, Scott Koegler, Troy and Todd Lockwood and Joshua Molen.

Memorials may be given to Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
APRIL 3 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Myers recalled as family man, more

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Raymond Clair Myers, 85, was recalled as a great family and business man and World War II veteran.

Mr. Myers died Feb. 3 at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola after a long illness.

He was born on a farm west of Pleasant Lake to Clyde and Jessie Myers. As a boy, he attended Pleasant Lake School. Later his family moved to rural Angola, where he attended Metz High School and he graduated from Scott Center High School.

Mr. Myers was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Philippines during World War II. He was later sent to Korea to help Koreans reclaim their government after the Japanese occupation. Upon returning home, his ship was in a typhoon and he survived.

His wife, Janis Myers, said once he returned to the United States, he started a taxi service in Angola. "He called it Ray's Tax. It was in a small room by the old Hendry Hotel," Janis said. "People didn't have cars yet because of the war. They made trips to Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Fort Wayne and the Angola area. The taxi picked up a lot of people at Waterloo that came in on the train and took them to the inn at Pokagon Park. It was a good business for a couple of years."

During Mr. Myers' taxi business, he also took people to church for free on Sundays, Janis said. Such a good deed made the national news and helped spread the word about his weekday transportation business.

For a few years, Mr. Myers drove a school bus and worked at Weatherhead (Dana Corporation). He also worked 371/2 years for the Farm Bureau Co-op taking fuel oil and gasoline to farmers. "He really liked that job. I think he knew every farmer in the county," Janis said.

Mr. Myers

He also had a Saturday night job for Banker Dispatch, in which he picked up canceled checks for banks and took them to Logansport. After retiring, he drove a van part-time for the Steuben County Council on Aging.

Raymond and Janis (Sheets) met in Angola and married April 26, 1949. They had four children: Nancy Pujols of Angola, Julie Hicks of Mentone, Patti Tribble of Angola and one son, Scott Myers of Angola. The family moved to the Hamilton area in 1956.

Janis recalled her husband loved to get a softball game going in the family's big backyard for anyone who wanted to join in. He also enjoyed Friday night bowling and going on rides in the country.

Mr. Myers was also known for playing a "mean" harmonica. "We had our own version of 'Name that Tune.' The kids lined up on one end of the room and whoever guessed the song he was playing first ran to him. They got in some pretty good scuffles playing that game," Janis said.

He also enjoyed riding his mini motorcycle in the country with his family and eventually talked Janis into riding too.

Mr. Myers also delighted in spending time with his family. "In later years, we had grandchildren which he loved very much, as he did his children," Janis said. "Each one thought he or she was his favorite."

"Just an ordinary man? Not to our family," Janis said. "Having a wonderful, loving husband, father and grandpa was truly a blessing from God."

Funeral services for Mr. Myers were handled by White Funeral Home in Angola. Burial was in Circle Hill Cemetery, Angola.

Chris Neeley

GARRETT — Chris Neeley, 45 of Garrett, died Sat., April 2, 2011 at his residence.

He was born Oct. 20, 1965 in Garrett to Coy and Sheila (Beber) Neeley.

He graduated from Garrett High School in 1984. He married Tina Miller on March 12, 2004 in Auburn.

Chris was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan and he loved music.

Chris is survived by his wife, Tina Neeley of Garrett; his father Coy Neeley of Garrett, a stepson, Jordan (Kacy) Edsall of Garrett; brother, Jim (Nancy) Neeley of Garrett; sister, Robin Omspacher of Garrett; granddaughters, Hanna and Rylea Edsall of Garrett; grandson, David Edsall of Garrett; mother in-law, Cheryl Miller of Garrett; brothers in-law, Tom Miller of Waterloo and Max Miller of Garrett; nephews; Ben and Max Miller of Fort Wayne, Shawn Miller of Kentucky, Cruz Neeley of Fort Wayne, Seth and Brock Omspacher of Garrett; nieces, Macy and Kristen Neeley of Garrett and Pamela Thompson of Fort Wayne and several other family members and friends.

His mother, Sheila Neeley, preceded him in death on March 13, 1978.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society

To send a condolence or sign the online guest book visit thomasfuneralhome.org condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Patricia Barr

KENDALLVILLE — Patricia Lou Barr, 76, of Kendallville, died on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at her residence.

Mrs. Barr

Mrs. Barr was born in Kendallville on July 3, 1934, to the late Arthur and Leona (Bordner) Rowe.

She graduated from Rome City High School in 1952.

She married Glen Alan "Bud" Barr on February 1, 1959, in Kendallville and he preceded her death October 26, 2009.

Pat worked in the cafeteria at the Kendallville Middle School for a number of years and she also worked at McCray Memorial Hospital for a time.

She was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

Pat loved going to garage sales to seek out "that latest find"! She was dedicated to her husband and family and was a wonderful mother and homemaker. Pat also loved gardening.

Survivors include four sons, Craig Linthicum of Kendallville and Kathy Linthicum of Auburn, Bret and Tonya Barr of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Joe Barr of Kendallville, and Todd Barr of Kendallville; 14 grandchildren, Carie and Dane Brandgard, Drew Linthicum, Cody Linthicum, Nikki and Rob Galbraith, Danelle Barr, Carl W. Haggerman, Kaitlin Barr, Emalee Barr, Kyle Barr, Connor Barr, Dezaray Barr, and Joshua Barr; eight great-grandchildren, Allyson Brandgard, Leif Brandgard, Lars Brandgard, Hanna Brandgard, Alaura Linthicum, Jackson Linthicum, Kingston Linthicum, and Alexis Jade Folis; two sisters, Donna Seigel of Ligonier, and Darlene Howard of Port Washington, Ky.; and a brother, Jack Rowe of Kentucky.

She was also preceded in death her great-granddaughter, Celestial Breeze Linthicum; daughter-in-law, Janet Elaine Barr, who died in 2007; brother, Jim Rowe; and sister, Annie Hammel.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 4:00-7:00pm at Hite Funeral Home, 403 South Main Street in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 11:00am at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Rev. Paul B. Griebel.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to American Cancer Association.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Pat by Tuesday at www.hitefuneralhome.com

STAR

APRIL 4 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Joann Hollinger

BUTLER — Joann A. Hollinger 82, died Saturday, April 2, 2011, at her home.

She was born on April 16, 1928, in Auburn to Leone and Bonnie (Shilling) Mitchener. Joann married Russell Allen Hollinger on July 20, 1947, in Auburn; he preceded in death on April 27, 2007.

Mrs. Hollinger

She worked for 24 years at Butler Elementary School as a library aide.

Joann enjoyed collecting dolls, plates, gardening and working in her yard. She was active member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Gay Hollinger of Westfield; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kay and Jerry Norton of Butler and Kim and Brian Burdick of Leo; a brother, Clayton Mitchener of Waterloo; a sister, Juanita Ringler of St. Joe; seven grandchildren, Chad Norton, Troy Norton, Jessica Norton, Joshua Burdick, Jason Burdick, Jeremiah Burdick and Nathan Hollinger; and three great-grandchildren, Chase Norton, Grace Norton, and Lydia Norton.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister Donna Mitchener.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Visitation will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to funeral at the church. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Memorials are to Butler United Methodist Church Library.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Peter Potts

CORUNNA — Peter G. Potts, beloved husband for 52 years of the late Helen (Graham) Potts; devoted son of the late George and Vernice (Reichelderfer) Potts; loving brother of Walter and the late Jack and Robert Potts, Jean (Potts) DeLong, and the late May Fuhrer; adored father of Kenneth and Marty Potts, Heather (Potts) Graham, Sarah Potts, Molly Potts and the late Sylvia Potts; grandfather of Wendy (Potts) Knox, Simon-Peter Cacciamani, Kenneth E. P. Potts, Shannon Potts, Aryn (Kirkendoll) Fry, Tracey (Potts) Gruver, Peter W. Potts, and Hayley Kirkendoll-Graham; great-grandfather of seven, beloved uncle, and special friend.

A master carpenter, building trades teacher, Past Master of DeKalb Lodge # 214, and a decorated combat WWII veteran, "Opa" was a charming, humble, and empathetic presence in the lives of all who knew him. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation," a devout Lutheran and a long time resident of DeKalb County, Indiana. He was a man of humble beginnings who lived an exemplary life. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Potts died April 3, 2011 at Bryan Care and Rehab Center in Bryan, Ohio.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 7, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery, Corunna, with military graveside honors by American Legion Post #97 of Auburn.

Calling is Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Peter's name to American Legion Post #284 of Bryan, Ohio.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Mona Porter

GARRETT — Mona G. Porter, age 90 of Garrett, died on Sunday, April 3, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born March 5, 1921, in Sydney, Australia, to Eric V. and Gladys (Witchard) Scott. She married Eugene William Porter on February 5, 1944, in Sydney, Australia, and he died on March 8, 1995.

Mona is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Merv and Jeanne Porter of Huntertown and Joe and Kathleen Porter of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Jeannie Allomong of Bryan, Ohio; a sister, Betty Sciberras of Sydney, Australia; four granddaughters, Jenna (Chris) Porter-Jacek of Greeneville, Tenn., Megan (Fernando) Llamas of Fort Wayne, Jessica Porter of Fort Wayne and Elizabeth Porter of Huntertown; a great-granddaughter, Delia Llamas of Fort Wayne; and two great grandchildren on the way.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mona was preceded in death by her brothers, Ronald and Mervyn Scott.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with burial to follow in Covington Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Home Health and Hospice

To send a condolence or to sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome org.

Hudson Hays

GARRETT — Hudson M. Hays, age 77, of Garrett died on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hays

He was born October 29, 1933, in Garrett to Hudson and Bea (Morris) Hays.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1962.

He worked as a bridge builder on the CSX Railroad for 41 years before retiring in 1993.

He married Donna R. Shaw on July 11, 1992, in Garrett and she survives in Garrett.

Hudson was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church and the Garrett Eagles.

He is also survived by three daughters and a son-in-law; Kathryn Shaw of Fort Wayne, Marsha Shaw of Fort Wayne and Rhonda and Tony Koble of Garrett; a brother, Richard Hays of Deland, Fla; two sisters, Jeanette Jacob of Kendallville and Nancy Treesh of Corunna; his grandchildren, Ashlee Koble of Garrett, Tasha (Willie) Jordan of Tampa, Fla., and Derek Fleckenstein; and his great-grandchildren, Macyra, Myasija and Hunter Koble.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Bill Hays; a sister, Josephine McWilliams; and a granddaughter, Chasty Koble.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R., Garrett, with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. A military graveside service by the Garrett American Legion and VFW Auxiliary will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 8, 2011, from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church, DeKalb Heart Association or National Kidney Foundation.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Luther Collingsworth

BUTLER — Luther R. Collingsworth, 86, died Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Collingsworth retired from Bohn Aluminum and was a member of the UAW.

He was born Aug. 21, 1924, in Spartanburg, S.C., to Nath and Rettie (Levesay) Collingsworth. He married Patricia A. Husted in Hicksville, Ohio, on Nov. 13, 1954. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Mike Wasson of Butler and Tamara and Dan Carper of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffery and Tina Collingsworth of Butler; two brothers, Millard Collingsworth of Auburn and Lloyd Collingsworth of Blackwater, Va.; four sisters, Mary Fisher of Blackwater, Va., Alice Shoupe of Pontiac, Ill., Gladys Whittle of Florida, and Cleo Smith of Kingsport, Tenn.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; seven brothers, James, Herbert, George, Roy, Frank, Charles and Willard Collingsworth; and two sisters, Eva Sage and Lizzie Mae McGowan.

Funeral services will be at 6 p.m. Friday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, Pastor Paul Patton officiating.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Butler Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

James Shannon

BUTLER — James R. Shannon, 73, of Butler died Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Shannon worked for 35 years at Ball Brass & Aluminum Foundry in Auburn, Universal Tool in Butler, and then retired from Dura Automotive Systems in Butler.

He was a member of the Zion United Methodist Church in Butler.

He was born Feb. 5, 1938, in DeKalb County to Harold and L. Vivian (Gift) Shannon.

He married Carolyn Alwood on June 16, 1957, in Hamilton. She passed away July 9, 1986. He then married June Marie (Meadows) Peters on June 29, 1991, in Auburn. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are a daughter, Brenda Geiser of Auburn; four stepdaughters, Donna Fry of Garrett, Julia Korytkowski of Phoenix, Ariz., Jean Mantle of Kendallville, and Marilyn Norris of Churubusco; two stepsons, Ronald Peters of North Carolina, and Mark Peters of Columbia City; four grandchildren and a spouse, Allison and Lynn Graber, Ashley Geiser, Sean Geiser, and Audra Geiser; 21 stepgrandchildren; and several stepgreat-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and a son-in-law, Christopher Geiser.

Services will be 10 a.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Jack Smith officiating. Burial will take place in the Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Zion United Methodist Church.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Patricia Damron

AUBURN — Patricia Lynn Damron, 47, of Auburn and formerly of Angola died Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Damron

She had been a 10-year employee of Applebee's in Auburn.

She was a 1982 graduate of Angola High School.

She was born Oct. 5, 1963, in Prestonsburg, Ky. Her father, Jim Damron, survives in Wolcottville. Her mother and stepfather, Nancy (Hopson) Johnson and Robert Johnson, survive in Pleasant Lake.

She married Nathan James Boyles on Jan. 25, 2010. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters, Nancy and Gary Strowmat of Kendallville and Clarica and Cody Tink-Shuford of Angola; a son, Levi Tink of Angola; eight grandchildren; two sisters, Barbara and William Mason of Angola and Jonna and Wade Robinson of Corunna; a brother, James Damron of Texas; and several nieces.

A memorial service will be at noon Saturday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with Pastor Mike Albaugh officiating.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Martha Martin

ANGOLA — Martha McClish Martin, 102, of Auburn and formerly of Angola died Thursday, April 7, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Martin was a homemaker.

She was a 1927 graduate of Salem Center High School.

Mrs. Martin taught Sunday school for many years and was active in church work until she was physically unable to do so.

Mrs. Martin

She was born Dec. 8, 1908, in Salem Center in Steuben County to Isaac and Mabel (Ammerman) Bodley. She married Virgil McClish on Jan. 17, 1928. He preceded her in death June 24, 1988. She then married Robert Martin on Oct. 14, 1989. He died in January 2007.

Surviving are a son, James (Connie) McClish of Martinsville; three daughters, Rebecca (Richard) Wisner of Auburn, Marianne Jenkins of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sally (George) Bartindale of Richmond; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, William Bodley; a sister, Katy Boyer; a son-in-law, Wally Jenkins; and three grandsons, Greg, Matt and Craig.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Pastor Lance Witham officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lake Missionary Church, 9030 U.S. 20 West, Angola, IN 46703.

Sign a guest book at www.weichtfh.com.

Garman Handshoe

KENDALLVILLE — Garman Handshoe, 68, of Kendallville died Thursday, April 7, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mr. Handshoe was an over-the-road trucker for Sunrise Express and Overland Transportation.

He was born in Garrett, Ind., Jan. 17, 1943, to the late Crit Handshoe and Maggie (Bradley) Handshoe.

Surviving are a son, Randi Handshoe of Greenville, S.C.; a daughter, Bobbi Handshoe of Bluffton, Ind.; six grandchildren; two sisters, Glenna and G.C. Johnson of LaOtto and Antha and John Bailey of Auburn; and his companion, Sandra Winling of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Arnold, Pard and Garnel Handshoe, and his sisters, Ruth Bailey, Julie Conley, Dorothy Conley, Edith Cook and Delphia Miller.

Private burial took place Friday at Christian Union Cemetery near Garrett.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Wilma Chisholm

GARRETT — Wilma L. Chisholm, 94, of Garrett died Friday, April 8, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Chisholm was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren. She was also a member of the National Seventeeners Club.

She was born March 21, 1917, in Auburn to Maurice and Clara (Wells) Elsner.

She married Maurice Chisholm on Nov. 26, 1936, in Auburn. He died Dec. 13, 1995.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Donald and Lucretia Chisholm of Springfield, Ohio, Jerald and Marcia Chisholm of LaOtto, and Leon and Bonnie Chisholm of Garrett; nine grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a half sister, Betty Riskas of Phoenix, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Peggye (Chisholm) Lortie; a brother, Maurice "Bud" Elsner; and three sisters, Naomi Hullett, Thelma Lawhead and Ormi Kohn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Keith Sarver officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday prior to the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
APRIL 10 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Rory Smith

GARRETT — Rory William Smith, 38, of Garrett, died Thursday, April 7, 2011.

Mr. Smith was born in Kendallville on Oct. 6, 1972 to Wally H. Smith and Rosemarie Lloyd.

He married Amanda Dawn Armstrong Smith on December 6, 2004.

He worked for Allied Exterior in Albion as a roofer.

Survivors include his wife, Amanda Dawn Smith of Garrett; three sons, Drake Landes, Austin Pfleidner and Kraig Smith, all of Garrett; a daughter, Rhianna Armstrong of Garrett; his mother, Rosemarie Lloyd of Kendallville; four brothers, Robert Wilcox of Fort Wayne, Dennis Smith and David Smith, both of Kendallville, and Rodney Messer of Hindman, Ky.; and five sisters, Rosemary Schaeffer of Kendallville, Roberta Garcia of Columbia City, Rowena Hart of Reno, Nev., Sheila Musser of Wolcottville and Mary Ridenour.

Mr. Smith

He was preceded in death by his father, Wally H. Smith, in February 2011.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the House of Prayer in Corunna with Rev. Earl Terry and Rev. Phillip Puckett officiating.

Calling will be Monday from noon to 6 p.m. at the House of Prayer in Corunna.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be left at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

STAF
APRIL 10 2011 Auburn, Indiana

The band played on for Bueker

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Frank Henry Bueker Jr. was a musical man who dedicated his time to his family as well as many community bands and orchestras from Auburn to Fort Wayne.

Bueker was born in Fort Wayne in 1918 to Frank H. and Adella Bueker. It was there where he discovered music at the tender age of 9, said his wife, Betty.

"The News-Sentinel had a boys band, and he started on the French horn and played with them for a while," Betty Bueker said.

Mr. Bueker continued playing his French horn in the Fort Wayne Civic Symphony Orchestra, now the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and played in the high school orchestra at North Side High School.

Music led the couple to meet. She explained that as a musician herself, the two often saw one another at the Wainwright Band and Orchestra Camp at Oliver Lake in Wolcottville.

"We really didn't know each other well," Mrs. Bueker said. "I played the cello and harp, and he played the horn."

After high school, Mrs. Bueker said, her husband attended the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., on a music scholarship. He then entered the service and served in the South Pacific during World War II and in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for four years.

When he returned to Fort Wayne from the military, the newly created Fort Wayne Philharmonic was looking for a horn player, Mrs. Bueker recalled. Even though he hadn't touched a horn in more than four years, the director needed him — so, naturally, he stepped up, Mrs. Bueker said.

It was there, in the practice hall, where he saw Mrs. Bueker again, bringing back memories from band camp.

"The story goes that he went home and said to his father, 'Guess who is playing in the orchestra?'" Mrs. Bueker said. "His dad encouraged him to ask me out." The two wed in 1947 played together in the orchestra for years, she said.

Soon after marrying, the couple moved to Auburn, and Mr. Bueker worked for Messenger Corp. until 1980. He also played in a variety of community bands — the Mizpah Shrine band for 43 years, the Auburn Community Band for 25 years and the American Legion Post 47 band for 59 years.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Frank Bueker plays his French horn with the Mizpah Shrine Band. He was a member of many community bands, including the Auburn Community Band, in which he played for more than 25 years.

"He really just had a love of playing music," Mrs. Bueker said. It was something he easily passed down to his children, Stephen and Karen. Stephen Bueker plays the French horn and organ, and Karen Bueker learned to play the flute. Both were fortunate enough to play with their father in the Auburn Community Band.

"He started me on the French horn when I was just a wee child," Stephen Bueker said. "Dad was always playing brass music. That is where the interest came from."

Stephen Bueker, his father's child, plays 25 to 30 various band concerts each year around his community in Easton, Pa. One of the French horns he plays was handed down to him from his father, he said.

In addition to his musical talents, Mrs. Bueker said, her husband enjoyed volunteering his time for the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum as a docent. He was a member of the Lions Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, engaging in many social service projects.

Mr. Bueker was also a skilled gardener, growing every fruit and vegetable imaginable, his wife said. From carrots to peas and beans to squash, Mr. Bueker loved spending time in his garden.

Stephen Bueker said his dad was determined to garden, wherever he could find the space. For a long time, he farmed a vacant lot near his South Baxter Street home. When condominiums were built there, his father moved the garden to a lot on McClellan Street. And, when homes were built there, too, his dad moved his garden to Center Street.

"(Gardening) was just something he liked to do," Stephen Bueker said. "There was plenty of fresh (food) every fall."

Mr. Bueker died March 24 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Kathleen Cather

BUTLER — Kathleen L. Cather, 90, died Sunday, April 10, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

She was born on April 4, 1921, in Defiance County, Ohio, to John H. and Florence H. (Smith) Rohrs. Kate married Charles Kester Cather on July 5, 1947, in Butler; he preceded her in death on Oct. 7, 1991.

Kate was member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

Survivors include three brothers, Paul Rohrs of Edgerton, Ohio, Lester Rohrs of Bryan, Ohio, and Floyd Rohrs of Antwerp, Ohio; two sisters, Lavern Grupp of Bryan, Ohio, and Florence Fields of Simpsonville, S.C.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, DeLoy Rohrs; and two sisters, Dora Shafer and Phyllis Humerick.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Calling will be Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, , one hour prior to funeral services at the church.

Burial will be in Big Run Cemetery, Butler.

Memorials are to Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

David Peterson

HAMILTON — David C. Peterson, 70, of Hamilton died Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Thursday before the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donors choice.

Services Wednesday for Albert Sebert, former assistant fire chief

KENDALLVILLE — Albert L. Sebert, 79, of Kendallville died on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

He was born in DeKalb County on Aug. 2, 1931, to Peter J. Sebert and Bertha A. (Manrow) Sebert. Al graduated from Waterloo High School in 1950. He married Marjorie A. Jones on March 23, 1951 in Auburn, and she survives.

Mr. Sebert

Al worked for Kraft Foods in Kendallville for 40 years, serving as a supervisor for several years before retiring in 1992. He was an active member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville where he belonged to the Yard Birds Mens Group.

Al served on the Kendallville Fire Department from 1959 to 1981, acting as Assistant Fire Chief from 1972 to 1981. He also served on the Noble County Community Fair Corp. Board for several years, serving as the president in 1989; held offices in city and county government over the years; and has been a member of the Kendallville Masonic Lodge 276 since 1961.

He and his wife enjoyed spending the winter months in Mesa, Arizona for the last 18 years. He was very active in local community projects and enjoyed playing Santa Claus at Christmas time for under privileged children.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie A. Sebert of Kendallville; two sons, Kim and Jane Sebert of Carbondale, Pa., and Craig and Peggy Sebert of Kendallville; six grandchildren, Erin Sebert, Peter Sebert, Michelle and Scott Olsen, Jennifer Trowbridge, William Thompson and David Thompson; five great-grandchildren, Chace Gamble, Tyler Gamble, Nathan Gamble, Kyle Olsen and Kaytlin Olsen; and two sisters, Naomi and Delbert Myers of Auburn and Mary Childs of Fort Worth, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Loretta Davis.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 12, 2011, from 3-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clothier and Pastor Robert Farmer. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

In lieu of flowers Al would prefer that you do something nice for someone, or make donations to the First Christian Church.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Albert by Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at www.hitefuneralhome.com

STAR
APRIL 12 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Rebecca Christensen

GARRETT — Rebecca Christensen, 62, of Garrett died Monday, April 11, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Christensen

She was born March 4, 1949, in Lansing, Mich., to Ted and Berniece (Martin) Christensen.

Surviving are a son, Shawn Lynch; her companion, Steve Mansfield; her parents, Ted and Berniece Christensen, her brother, Jim (Janet) Christensen; her sister, Brenda (Ron) Grant; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home or the American Cancer Society.

There will be no services.

Francis Anderson Jr.

KENDALLVILLE — Francis Gerald "Butch" Anderson Jr., age 54, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Anderson

Butch was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on August 8, 1956, to the late Francis Gerald Anderson Sr. and Martha (Morishta) Anderson.

He graduated from East Noble High School in 1975 and married Tamara Marie Wilhelm on March 7, 1981, in Kendallville.

Butch had been a conductor for the Norfolk & Southern Railroad before becoming disabled.

Butch loved to ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, play poker and pool, listen to Bluegrass music and fly his gyrocopter.

He was also a Detroit Tiger fan.

Survivors his wife of 30 years, Tamara (Wilhelm) Anderson of Kendallville; a daughter, Erin Anderson and her fiance, Kevin Dozois, both of Garrett; a granddaughter, Kaiya Dozois of Garrett; two brothers, Jerry and Deanna Anderson of Kendallville and William and Tami Anderson of LaOtto; and a sister, Melinda Glass of Kendallville.

Visitation will be Friday, April 15, 2011, from 5-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Saturday, April 16, 2011, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Lauri Burnett.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Casketbearers will be Tom Ebert, Jess Fleck, Jason Anderson, Channing Anderson, Jeremy Anderson and Tyler Anderson.

Preferred memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association.

Send a Condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Francis by Friday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Mildred Bowers

AUBURN — Mildred "Millie" G. Bowers, 91, of Auburn and formerly of New Haven, died Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor.

Mrs. Bowers retired in 1968 as the owner/operator of Manny's Tavern. She had worked for 17 years at General Electric and went on to retire from the cafeteria at New Haven High School after 17 years.

She was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, the Rosary Sodality and the Harvest House. She was also a member of the American Legion Post 330 Auxiliary.

Born in Fort Wayne, she was the daughter of the late William and Ellanora Fabian.

She is survived by her daughters, Sharon (Grant) Fetters of Madisonville, Tenn., and Diane (Thomas) Ward of Auburn; her grandchildren, Sarah Lang of Germany, Nicholas Childers of Indianapolis, Anne Delagrange of Fort Wayne, and Kate Ward of Auburn; three great-grandchildren; and one niece.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Manfred C. Bowers in 1987.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 943 Powers St., New Haven, with calling one hour prior. Father James Seculoff will officiate.

Burial is in the church cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to Masses.

E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, New Haven, is in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.harperfuneralhome.com.

George Corkwell

ELLENTON, Fla. — George R. Corkwell, 91, of Ellenton, Florida, and also of Albion, Indiana, died Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Florida.

Mr. Corkwell was a die setter for General Electric in Fort Wayne for 18 years, retiring in 1982.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army serving as staff sergeant in the 38th Division, receiving three Purple Hearts.

He was a member of the Big Lake Church of God in Columbia City.

He was a member and past commander of the Disabled American Veterans Association of Bradenton, Fla. He was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #1906 of Columbia City, American Legion Post 98 of Columbia City, Veterans of Foreign Wars #5582 of Columbia City, and the National Order of Trench #572 of Palmetto, Florida.

He was born July 2, 1919, in Continental, Ohio, to Edwin S. and Olive Opal (Troyer) Corkwell.

He married Juanita I. Voges on Feb. 18, 1950, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Randall L. and Lesa Corkwell of Valparaiso; a daughter and son-in-law, Kay Lynn and Jim Smith of Bradenton, Florida; two grandchildren, Shannon Lee and Lance Corkwell; and five great-grandchildren, Deakon Lee, Reese Corkwell, Logan Corkwell, Lilly Corkwell, and Maverick Corkwell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Glen P. Corkwell and Donald D. Corkwell; and two sisters, Mary Catherine McCabe and Barbara Ann Fremion.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Rachel Imhoff

BUTLER — Rachel M. Imhoff, 95, of Butler died Thursday, April 14, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Imhoff

She was born January 22, 1916, in Stafford Township in DeKalb County to Homer and Princess (Thomas) Casebere.

She was a homemaker and a member of Auburn Church of Christ in Auburn.

Rachel married Theron J. Imhoff on November 26, 1936 in Butler, IN and he died May 2, 2006.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Roger Imhoff; another son and a daughter in infancy; her sister, Mable Myers; and her brother, Harold Casebere.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Alger Miller of Butler; two sons, Keith Imhoff and Kent Imhoff, both of Menlo Park, Calif.; a daughter-in-law, Janet Imhoff of Butler; four grandchildren, Sheri (Shanon) Planck of Butler, Yvonne (Dave) Fee of Leo, Vicki (Steve) Rodkey of Butler, and Todd (Pat) Imhoff of Butler; nine great-grandchildren, Jenni Poole of Butler, Tom (Jenell) Makin of Leo, Kyle (Dakota) Makin of Butler, Rachel Fee of Leo, Jeremy Fee of Leo, Ben Rodkey of Butler, Allison Rodkey of Butler, TJ Imhoff of Butler and Jon Imhoff of Butler; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday, April 18, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Joe Heins and Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be directed to Filling Station Youth Center, 315 S. Federal St., Butler, IN 46721 or Butler United Methodist Church, West Green Street, Butler, IN 46721 or Auburn Church of Christ, 208 W. 18th St., Auburn, IN 46706.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Arlene Upp

BUTLER —Arlene J. Upp, 84, died Saturday at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

She was born on December 3, 1926 in Hamilton to Virgil and Ruth (Schrider) Robinett. Arlene was a graduate of Hamilton High School and worked at Maxton Motors in Butler as a parts clerk.

She married Keith H. Upp on September 3, 1948 in Hamilton, he preceded in death on October 19, 1997. Arlene was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Upp

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas and Maggie Upp of Butler and Steven Upp of Butler; two daughters and sons-in-law, Deanna and Robert Jennings of Leo and Deborah and Eric Johnson of Butler; seven grandchildren: Julie Lengacher, Jennifer Hood, Justin Upp, Chandra Steury, Jared Johnson, Zach Johnson, and Alex Upp; 11 great-grandchildren; a brother, Larry Robinett of Michigan City; and two sisters, Lorinne James of Auburn and Loene McNew of Michigan City. She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Julia, and a step mother Myrtle Robinett.

Funeral services for Arlene Upp will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Calling will be Monday from 2-7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler and one hour prior to services at the church. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery. Preferred memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Everett Baker

KIMMELL — Everett P. Baker, age 95, of Kimmell passed away Friday April 15, 2011 at Millers Merry Manor in Syracuse. He was born on October 24, 1915 to U.S. & Mary (Stephenson) Baker. In May of 1939 he married Lucille Beezley, she passed away June 27, 2003.

Mr. Baker

Everett was a well known area farmer and farmed well into his nineties. He was also a member of Broadway Christian Church for over 70 years.

He is survived by two daughters, Diana (Danny) Brown, and Judith (Ronald) Wentworth; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and six siblings.

A funeral service in Mr. Baker's honor will be held on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 10 a.m. at Yeager Funeral Home in Ligonier with J. D. Woods officiating. Burial will take place at Sparta Cemetery in Kimmell. Pall bearers are Dick Adair, Alan Beers, Larry Wilkinson, Chuck Werker, Dana Brown, and Joshua Wentworth. Friends may call from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at Yeager Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Broadway Christian Church. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.yeagerfuneralhome.com.

STAR
APRIL 2011 Auburn, Indiana
17

'The show must go on'

Joe Taylor and his Red Birds made music for 50 years

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

AVILLA — Joseph "Joe" Taylor, "The Cowboy Auctioneer," was a country music legend not only in northeast Indiana but also in the world of country music.

His children and grandchildren said he could have had a chance at the big time, but because of his love and devotion to his family, he chose to stay in the area. He had said, "I'd rather be a big fish in a little pond. All that matters is making folks happy when they hear me sing my songs."

And he made thousands of people happy over the years.

Taylor, 89, died March 24, 2011, in his Avilla home. That's when his longtime bandmate and caregiver Patty Corbat began to sing at his bedside, "You Are My Sunshine."

Corbat gets emotional when she talks about Joe.

"I loved the guy with all my heart, and now there is a hole in it that I don't think will ever heal. Our longtime partnership is no more," she said.

Corbat (stage name Corbett) first sang with Joe Taylor and his band, the Indiana Red Birds, 62 years ago when she was 15 years old.

Born May 11, 1921, in Portsmouth, Ohio, Taylor moved with his parents to Fort Wayne at age 15 and met Pauline Corbat at Arcola High School. They married Nov. 20, 1941, and she preceded him in death in February 2007.

He worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 40 years, retiring in 1981.

Joe and Pauline Taylor raised two children, Dan and Paula Jo, who were on stage with him as toddlers and went on to follow their father in the music business.

"Dad was definitely the inspiration for my love and pursuit of music," said Paula Jo Taylor, who was performing in Las Vegas with her daughter, Amanda, along with country recording artist Gretchen Wilson when she learned of her father's failing health.

"Dad had a sneaky and cute way of offering me constructive criticism when I was growing up," she said. "He would tell me if I learned to play a particular song (always a very challenging one), he would buy me an amp, a new guitar or something of musical value I wanted."

His daughter quickly learned how to get out of doing chores by practicing her guitar.

"Dad would say to my mom or aunt Patty (Corbat), 'Leave her alone. She's rehearsing,'" she said.

Joe Taylor started his performing career as a solo artist in the mid-1940s. He did a 15-minute morning live broadcast weekdays over WFTW radio. In 1948, he formed the Indiana Red Birds band. His first big hit song, "The Cowboy Auctioneer," was inspired after he graduated from the Reppert School of Auctioneering. It was the first song to use an auctioneer's chant. The late cowboy star Tex Ritter recorded it on Capital Records in 1950.

Taylor and his band broadcast live Saturday morning programs over WOWO and WGL, and from 1953-1969 the Red Birds opened shows at Buck Lake Ranch near Angola for superstars including Gene Autry, Johnny Cash, Buddy Holly, Minnie Pearl, Dolly Parton, George Jones and the Lennon Sisters.

His sister-in-law, Patty Corbat, was always by his side.

"At first I just sang," she recalled. "Then I got bored only doing that, so I got into calling square dances with the group, something I did until we retired the band." Taylor and Corbat wrote and recorded more than 50 tunes for seven different labels.

They retired the band in 1998 and preserved the memories in a book they wrote titled "50 Years Together: The Red Birds Remember."

In 1988, Taylor was honored with a plaque from Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame for his achievements and commitment to country music. He was one of only seven Hoosiers among 1,200 country music entertainers included in a 1995 book sold internationally titled "Definitive Country: The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Country Music and Its Performers." In 1997 he received the Sagamore of the Wabash award, and in 1999 the Indiana Legislature presented him with a resolution thanking him and his band for the entertainment they brought to audiences.

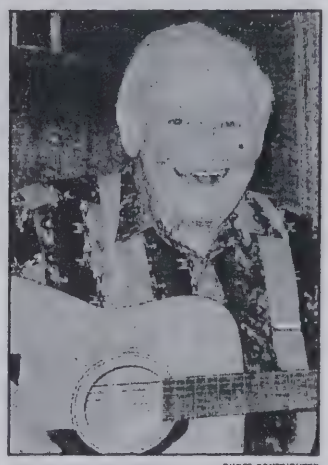


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joe Taylor and his guitar

"I remember how, after a long day of working at the factory, dad would battle the worst of snow, rain or storms to make it to the local Legion, Moose or Eagles to sing for all his friends," said his daughter. "His dedication is what instilled in me the tenacity to make sure that the show must go on no matter what."

Two weeks before he passed away, Paula Jo and her daughter Amanda visited Joe Taylor at Lutheran Hospital. Amanda told her grandfather they wanted to stay with him and they would cancel their Las Vegas commitment. That's when her grandfather slightly opened one eye and blurted out, "H-— no. You go to Vegas and sing for me." Joe smiled and laughed with his daughter and granddaughter. Then he said, "I think somebody slipped me a mickey." Those were the last words he said to his daughter and granddaughter.

Joe Taylor and the Red Birds live on on their recordings and books. To hear excerpts of their music go online to Joe Taylor's Red Birds: Songs at Hometown Sounds at hometown-sounds.com/artists/country/jt01.htm

STAR 2011 Auburn, Indiana
APRIL 18

Wilma Hill

FORT WAYNE — Wilma R. (Godwin) Hill, age 79, of Fort Wayne, died at 9:35 a.m. Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born Oct. 5, 1931 in Catawba, W. Va., to Simon Virgil and Hazel Agnes (Bryan) Godwin, and they preceded her in death.

Mrs. Hill

She was employed as a bookkeeper for Barth and Levy Appliance in Fort Wayne, and most recently was a clerk for AAA Auctions in New Haven, and at Walmart.

She was of the Baptist faith.

Wilma is survived by two sons: Darryl Hill, Fort Wayne, and Brian Chittenden, Hicksville, Ohio. She is also survived by a sister, Sandy Stryker of Auburn; and her grandchildren, Kevin (Elizabeth) Chittenden of Wauseon, Ohio, Kate Chittenden of Hicksville, Ohio; Clayton Hill of Fort Wayne, and Jennifer Hoot of New Haven; and a great-grandson, Brody Chittenden, Wauseon, Ohio.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, and from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, April 20, at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Allen County.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting thomasfuneralhome.org

Scott Hook

BUTLER — Scott S. Hook, 91, of Butler died peacefully at his home on Sunday, April 17, 2011.

Mr. Hook

He was born on February 8, 1920, in rural Butler to Guy and Jennie (Scott) Hook.

He was a lifelong farmer in the area and loved to ride his cycle, fly planes, and run his bulldozer.

In his later years he enjoyed watching his son, Jerry, take over the farming operation.

He was a member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and the Aircraft and Pilots Association.

Scott married Thelma Oplinger on February 8, 1949, in Fort Wayne. She preceded in death on June 19, 1963.

Survivors include two sons, Larry and Julie Hook of Butler and Jerry Hook and Colleen Kaiser of Butler; two daughters, Joyce and Dale Miller of Butler and Jackie and Stan Miller of New Lenox, Illinois; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Ginger Jelff of Villa Park, Illinois.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to DeKalb Hospice.

Condolences may be directed to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Betty Robbins

AUBURN — Betty J. Robbins, 90, of Auburn, died Sunday, April 17, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Robbins

She was born Jan. 2, 1921, in Fort Wayne to Elmer and Audrey Moss.

Mrs. Robbins was a member of Auburn Church of Christ and had worked at Kresge Department Store for 13 years.

Surviving are two sons, James (Beverly) Robbins of Lake Gage, Angola, and Larry (Ami) Robbins of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Sharon (Wilber) Lewis of Garrett; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; six sisters; and one brother.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald J. Robbins Sr.; a son, Gerald J. Robbins Jr.; a daughter, Phyllis Sharp; two sisters; and two brothers.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and one hour prior to the funeral Thursday.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Auburn Church of Christ.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

STAR
APRIL 21 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Marilyn Rudolph

WATERLOO — Marilyn "Joann" Rudolph, 79 of Waterloo died Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Rudolph

She was born December 27, 1931, in DeKalb County to Frank S. and Elva (Blomeke) Miller.

She was a bookkeeper for 28 years for DeKalb Financial Credit Union, retiring in 2009.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo, Cedar Creek Antique Tractor Club and Harvest House.

Joann married Forrest A. "Sport" Rudolph on Nov. 10, 1953, in Waterloo and he died June 8, 2006.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Rosann and Mike Darnall of Waterloo; two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard A. and Cheryl Rudolph of Waterloo and Roger L. and Kim Rudolph of Greencastle; four grandchildren, Bradley M. (Dawn) Rudolph, Jessica A. Seigel, Matthew A. Rudolph and Kristin M. Rudolph; four great-grandchildren, Michaela Rudolph, Cameron Rudolph, Ashlyn Seigel and Abigail Seigel; and three sisters-in-law, Margaret Miller of Waterloo, Betty Sebert of Butler and Judy Rudolph of Avilla.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a grandson, Thomas A. Rudolph; four sisters, Kathryn Walker, Dorothy Hoffelder, Irene Ruppert and Ursilla Smith; and a brother, Anthony "Pete" Miller.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 23, 2011, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service Saturday at the church. A rosary will be recited at 6:45 p.m. Friday night at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Masses to the church or Cedar Creek Antique Tractor Club.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Katheryn Sager

AUBURN — Katheryn J. Sager, 85, of Auburn died Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Sager had been a homemaker and an active volunteer at R.S.V.P. in Auburn.

She was a graduate of Libbey High School in Toledo, Ohio, and completed her training as a registered nurse at St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo.

She was born on Nov. 8, 1925, to Eddie and Ruth Zelt. She married Richard J. Sager on Jan. 10, 1948. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters in-law, Richard and Patricia Sager of Carleton, Mich., Mike and Sandee Sager of Auburn, Jack Sager of Huntertown and Steve and Angie Sager of Milford, Ohio; five grandchildren; a sister and brother in-law, Connie and Karl Kazmaier of Port Clinton, Ohio; and a brother and sister in-law, George and Judy Surerus of Toledo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her stepfather, Nelson Surerus; a sister, Joanne Zelt; and a brother, Donald Surerus.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and one hour prior to the funeral service Saturday.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home with the Rev. Bill Haworth of the Garrett Presbyterian Church officiating.

Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the R.S.V.P in Auburn, Garrett Presbyterian Church or the Heimach Center in Auburn.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Dee Duncan

CHURUBUSCO — Dee S. Duncan, 54, a resident of rural Churubusco and wife of widely acquainted Churubusco businessman Dale E. Duncan, passed away at 12:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at the family residence in Smith Township following an illness of more than three years.

Mrs. Duncan

Mrs. Duncan was born in Dallas, Texas, on April 30, 1956, a daughter of David E. and Barbara A. (Smith) Leonard. As a girl she moved with her family to Boulder, Colorado, where she graduated from Boulder High School in 1974. Following her graduation she spent time along with her parents as a missionary to Honduras and Costa Rica, where she became fluent in Spanish.

On January 28, 1984, she was married in Camp Wood, Texas, to Dale E. Duncan of Churubusco, and lived all of her married life in Churubusco. Along with her husband, she was part owner of both the Eel River Golf Course in Churubusco and U. S. Automation in Huntertown.

A member of the County Line Church of God near Auburn, she sang in its church choir, and was a naturally gifted vocalist. A lifelong student of Scripture, she enjoyed opening her home for Bible studies and other special functions for family and friends. Known for her flair in decorating and total efficiency, and always having a special love for children, she had been a personal counselor and confidant to countless friends over the years.

During her illness of more than three years, Dee was an inspiration to all who knew her, never failing to praise her God in all things.

The surviving relatives include her husband Dale; a son, Andrew Duncan, a senior at Calvin College; a daughter, Anna Duncan of Churubusco; her parents, David E. and Barbara Leonard of Mesquite, Texas; one sister, Cyndi (Paul) Demaree of Fort Wayne; one brother, Terry Leonard of Amity, Oregon; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in the County Line Church of God, 7716 N. County Line Road, East, Auburn. Pastor Stuart Kruse will officiate.

The family will receive friends at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco on Sunday from 6 to 8 p. m., on Monday from 2 to 8 p. m., or at the church one hour prior to the service.

Interment will be in the family plot at Eel River Cemetery, south of Churubusco.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to County Line Church of God Missions Fund, 7716 N. County Line Road, East, Auburn, IN 46706; or to Churubusco Youth For Christ, 2825 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808.

To leave an online condolence for the family in Mrs. Duncan's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Anna Doty

ASHLEY — Anna Mae Doty, 79, of Ashley died at 2:07 a.m. Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Doty was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

Mrs. Doty was a graduate of Butler High School.

She was born March 18, 1932, in Butler to Charles and Edna (Slentz) Albertson. She married Robert L. Doty on Feb. 12, 1955, in Angola. He survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are a son, Frank (Joyce) Doty of Auburn; a daughter, Karen K. Doty of Ashley; a brother, James Albertson of Butler; two sisters, Betty Zehr of Montpelier, Ohio, and Ruth Groff of Butler; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will b at 11 a.m. Saturday at Independent Full Gospel Church, with Pastor Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the church

Memorials to the church.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Margaret Flook

WHITMORE LAKE, Mich. — Flook, Peg, Mrs. John Howard Flook, Margaret Joanne Hachet, Mom. All of these people, wrapped into one tired, aged body passed away peacefully in her sleep in the home of her beloved son Tom, daughter-in-law Jan, and grandkids, Steven and Brian.

Mrs. Flook

She is also survived by the sons of her eldest son Dale, Aaron and Sean Flook, and daughter Anne Arroyo (Flook) and Anne's husband, Oscar.

Born in 1920 in Auburn, Indiana, she graduated from Ohio Wesleyan College in journalism and went on to work for the Detroit Free Press as a reporter. There she met and married a handsome Navy Lieutenant Commander John Howard Flook.

They ultimately settled in Saline, Michigan, where she worked for the Saline Reporter.

When child rearing was done, they sold their home and moved to St. Bees Island off the coast of McKay, Queensland, Australia. Between fishing stranded sailors from the sea, and surviving and recovering from cyclones, they saved and nursed to health any number of kangaroo joeys, baby goats, stranded dogs, and the occasional koala or fruit bat.

Mom best remembered this time for sitting up nights waiting for the sea turtle eggs to hatch. Australian Guana lizards and innumerable sea birds sat near by. As the hatchlings emerged she would run defense, shooing away the birds and cranky, hissing lizards as the baby turtles made their way to the sea.

When health issues caused them to return to Michigan, her commitment to all God's creatures, great and small, led to rescue of innumerable stray cats, dogs, birds and many, many raccoons.

At her request, there will be no memorial service. Cremation has taken place.

Weep if you must, but do not send flowers. Instead, in her name, make a donation to your church, synagogue, or mosque as recognition of her deep life long faith; or make a donation to a Disabled American Veterans organization in recognition of her years as a patriotic Navy wife; or to the Humane Society near you in recognition of the innumerable "babies" she saved and nurtured; or to your local hospice organization in recognition to the wonderful care and support Grace Hospice provided in her last days.

Nie Funeral Homes, Ann Arbor, Mich., is in charge of arrangements.

Please visit Peg's webpage at www.niefuneralhomes.com to sign her guest book or leave a memory.

R. Dale Yarde

GARRETT — R. Dale Yarde, 79, of Garrett died Wednesday, April 20, 2011, in his home.

Mr. Yarde

Dale was born July 19, 1931, in Garrett to John and Edith (Wilmot) Yarde.

He was a farmer his entire life, working the farms that had been in his family for over a century.

He was an active member and lifetime deacon of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

Dale was a 1949 graduate of Garrett High School and the served four years in the U.S. Air Force. Upon his return to Garrett, Dale married Alice J. Trenary on August 31, 1957.

He was a life-long supporter of Railroader athletics. He enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren participate in a wide variety of sports, from football, to soccer, to rugby, to basketball and softball. He also was an avid fan of GHS wrestlers. In addition, Dale was a lifetime supporter of 4-H and FFA.

He is survived by his wife and their children, Roberta Bowser, Rae Ann and Steve Bade, Tom Yarde, and Terry and Andrea Yarde, all of Garrett; his grandchildren, Cassie (Josh) Ashenfelter, Kyle Yarde, Lauren Bowser, Lance Yarde, Lindsey Yarde, and Abby Nucci; and a sister, Nancy Potter of Fort Wayne.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Doris J. Gerber.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren with calling from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Pastor Brad Hardesty will be officiating. Burial will take place in Embrey Cemetery in Garrett following the service.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Joseph Tomlinson

AUBURN — Joseph Edward Tomlinson went to meet Jesus on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the age of 81.

Mr. Tomlinson

He most recently lived at Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne but spent most of his life in various group home facilities throughout northeast Indiana including Sunny Meadows Home in Auburn and Northeastern Center's group homes in Kendallville and Angola.

He was a member of the First Christian Church in Auburn.

Despite telling people that he had been a truck driver and a farmer, he actually worked at a variety of sheltered workshops throughout his life including RISE Inc. and New Hope Clubhouse. Sometime early in life, he was taught how to write his full name and he did so with the utmost pride and care.

He enjoyed attending church, riding his bicycle, collecting key chains and pocket calendars, petting dogs and cats, playing dress up, smoking cigarettes, eating bananas and 3 Musketeer candy bars, and drinking Pepsi. However, what he enjoyed the most was people. He relied on the kindness of strangers nearly his entire life but they were never strangers long. With a handshake as firm as a preacher's and a wink as cute as Santa Claus', he won friends faster than a soda can attracts bees. Most importantly, years ago, one of those strangers taught him about the love of Jesus and he knew he was going to heaven when the time came.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Elsie Tomlinson.

Joseph had no known living relatives but is survived by his friend and healthcare representative, Amanda (Sarver) Gunthorp, of LaGrange and her family — husband, Ray, and sons, Alex, Derik, and Andrew.

A private memorial service will be held in the near future at Mrs. Gunthorp's home.

Cards of condolence and memories of Joe can be mailed to the Gunthorp's at 0810 N. C.R. 925E, LaGrange, IN 46761. Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., is assisting the family with the arrangements.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Marie Mann

WATERLOO — Marie M. Mann, 87, of Waterloo died Thursday, April 21, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Mann had worked at Warner Gear.

She was born April 17, 1924, in Holly, Mich., to Ross and Blanche Eaton.

Surviving are her sons, Johnnie Mann of Waterloo, Ross Mann of SantaFe, Tenn., Jesse Mann of Buffalo Valley, Tenn., Peter Simmons of Gulfport, Miss., Paul Simmons of Brighton, Mich., and Lawrence Simmons of Baldwin, Mich.; her daughters, Patricia Baldwin of Galesburg, Mich., and Phyllis Simmons of Baldwin, Mich.; her stepsons, Thomas Mann of Albion, Mich., and Charlie Mann of Auburn; her stepdaughters, Blanch Hilsmier of Auburn and Betty Woods of Auburn; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnie Mann; a daughter, Pearl Mann; stepsons, Floyd Mann and Johnny Mann; and a stepdaughter, Mary Rodman.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ed Hughes officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Memorial Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

To sign the guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Anna Doty

ASHLEY — Anna Mae Doty, 79, of Ashley died at 2:07 a.m. Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Doty was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

Mrs. Doty was a graduate of Butler High School.

She was born March 18, 1932, in Butler to Charles and Edna (Slentz) Albertson. She married Robert L. Doty on Feb. 12, 1955, in Angola. He survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are a son, Frank (Joyce) Doty of Auburn; a daughter, Karen K. Doty of Ashley; a brother, James Albertson of Butler; two sisters, Betty Zehr of Montpelier, Ohio, and Ruth Groff of Butler; and two grandchildren, Mikalyn and Wilson Doty.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Independent Full Gospel Church, with Pastor Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the church

Memorials to the church.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Robert Hartman

HAMILTON — Robert Dale Hartman, 86, of Hamilton and formerly of Ashley died at 12:45 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hartman

Mr. Hartman had retired from Weatherhead in Angola after 25 years of service. He was also a painter.

He formerly owned the Edon Steak House in Edon, Ohio.

Mr. Hartman was a 50-year member of the Ashley Masonic Lodge #614 and 50-year member of the Ashley Order of the Eastern Star #229. He was also a member of the Bryan, Ohio, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He attended Alvarado United Methodist Church.

He had served in the US Navy during World War II on 667 LST.

Mr. Hartman was an avid golfer.

He was born in Corunna, Ind., on May 21, 1924, to Kenneth and Bertha (Crossley) Hartman. He married Elaine L. Lash on Nov. 19, 1949, and she survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are two sons, Michael Hartman of Edon, Ohio, and Kenneth Hartman and Tammie Horn of Angola; a daughter, Nancy Crawford of Edon, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Robert Dale Hartman Jr.; a daughter, Jo Ellen Helms; and a sister, June Kohn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with Pastor John Maxson officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, with military graveside services.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. There will be an Eastern Star memorial service at 7:30 p.m. and a Masonic service at 8 p.m.

Condolences may be sent online to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Michael Koenig

AUBURN — Michael Craig Koenig, 63, of Auburn died Friday, April 22, 2011, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Clear Lake Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the church and one hour prior to services Wednesday.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Federspiel was unofficial Clear Lake historian

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

CLEAR LAKE — Robert Federspiel was known as the unofficial Clear Lake historian, who was passionate about the Steuben County body of water and its activities.

Mr. Federspiel, 90, died Feb. 27 in Naples, Fla., but his Clear Lake imprints remain.

Bonnie Brown of Clear Lake said Mr. Federspiel worked with her and others on a history book and he contributed many stories and facts. "He was our official historian. His father, Frank, was our first town board president," said Brown, who has been at Clear Lake since she was a fourth-grader. "He was an avid sailor on the 'Inland Cat.' We purchased our first sailboat from him, 'The Eight Ball.'"

Brown said no matter the topic, Mr. Federspiel knew a little bit about everything and had a remarkable memory. "He was like the backbone to everything," she said. "He was very vital and active. He will be missed."

Brown said the focus of the Clear Lake history book was to record information for future generations so it wouldn't be forgotten. According to the book, Mr. Federspiel worked as a student apprentice in 1936 and 1937 holding metal blocks inside boats so a copper clout nail could be bent over. He then moved onto sanding, varnishing, delivering and rigging sailboats. Mr. Federspiel provided an account of a bridge conflict: "Upon realizing that the channel site was being filled in by an angry group, Dad (Frank Federspiel Sr., president of the town board) called the sheriff's department and county commissioners, but that brought no response or interest. The town did not have a marshal then. I drove Dad down to the canal fill site at the water's edge. I parked crossways to stop the trucks from dumping more fill. About six or eight burly drivers picked us up in the 1926 Buick and placed us in the lake. Meanwhile, the other two board members, B.H. Mies and Oliver Guilford, came to plea for civility and lawfulness. The group picked us up out of the water, placed us back on hard ground and I drove away up the hill."

Robert Federspiel

Mr. Federspiel was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Fort Wayne to Frank and Ella (Miller) Federspiel. In 1945, he married Margaret Weber. She preceded him in death in 2010.

Mr. Federspiel was a World War II veteran who received Navy cadet flight training and was commissioned as a Naval flight officer and flew reconnaissance in World War II. He was assigned to VPB-112 n Fleet Air Wing Seven in French Morocco. He was later assigned to FAW-7 in England.

After being employed at General Electric in Fort Wayne, he was established Customcraft Inc., as a designer and exhibitor for trade show displays and ran the company for 33 years.

Mr. Federspiel also was vice president and secretary of the Jaycees and was part of the group that built the Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum. In 1964, he was involved in the design concept of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo and served on the zoo's board of directors, remaining director emeritus for 40 years.

He was involved in the design of Fort Wayne industrial buildings and homes in Naples in his retirement. He was on the building committees of the Grace Lutheran Church, Naples, and the Clear Lake Lutheran Church during reconstruction.

Mr. Federspiel's loves were woodworking, building projects, sailing, travel, classic boats, automobiles, church, Navy reunions and spending time with his family.

Judy Johnston of Clear Lake said Mr. Federspiel knew four generations of her family. "My great-grandpa helped Bob move here," Johnston said. "He was able to tell me information about my ancestors, including Charles Borton distilling peppermint and selling it for medicinal purposes. Bob was well loved and respected."

Survivors include his five children, Phillip Federspiel of West Hartford, Conn., Ellen Poffenberger and her husband Robert of Carmel; Susan Chase of Glastonbury, Conn., Neil Federspiel and his wife, Marcia of Fort Wayne and Ann DeWert and her husband, Richard of Cincinnati, Ohio, daughter-in-law, Kathy Latz, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Dorothy Bosler and Jerome Federspiel.

Condolences for Federspiel were left on a message board of a Clear Lake website. "He has given so much to the preservation of Clear Lake history. We will miss him dearly. The family will have a memorial service at the lake this summer to honor his memory and good deeds," the Winches wrote.

Bruce Spangler wrote: "Bob Federspiel was a friend of my parents, but later became a friend of mine. He was a kind, gentle man that loved Clear Lake … He wanted to see the progress on the rebuild of our cottage. He very much liked that we were preserving our 95-year-old cottage. I will miss seeing him this spring, but rejoice that Bob was part of my life."

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Clear Lake Lutheran Church, Clear Lake; Grace Lutheran Church — Memorial Garden Fund, Naples, Fla; or the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Fort Wayne.

Brown said the Clear Lake history book, which contains information on Mr. Federspiel, is available at the Fremont Public Library and Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County. The book is also available for purchase at the Clear Lake Town

Michael Koenig

AUBURN — Michael Craig Koenig, 63, of Auburn, passed away Friday, April 22, 2011 at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Born July 2, 1947 in Garrett, he was the son of the late Edward and Florose Koenig.

Mr. Koenig

He had worked For Ball Brass & Aluminum Foundry for over 30 years.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, where he was a choir member.

Survivors include brothers, Rev. Stephen (Patricia) Koenig of Clinton, Miss., Rev. Kevin (Elizabeth) Koenig of Marco Island, Fla., and Mark (Sue) Koenig of Auburn; sisters, Ann (Mark) Kern of Sulphur, La., and Kim (Rowland) Perez of Auburn; nephews, Alex Koenig, Joshua Koenig, Jonathan Kern, Alex Kern, Aaron Kern, Justin Koenig, Brandon Koenig, Kayle Koenig and Seth Koenig; nieces, Elizabeth Zeller, Jill Koenig, Jenny Kirkpatrick, Carollyn Jimenez, Hillary Kern, Paula Fairley, Rachel Thomas, Ashley Perez and Maria Perez.

Mr. Koenig had a special interest in his nieces and nephews events and activities.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 27, 2011, with visiting one hour prior at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Clear Lake Cemetery, Fremont.

Visitation will also be Tuesday, April 26, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church.

To sign the online guest book visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Patricia Nickolson

FORT WAYNE — Patricia Ann (Carpenter) Nickolson, 73, of Fort Wayne, died Saturday, April 23, 2011 at Kingston Care Center in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with calling from noon to 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

Rachel Bair

EATON RAPIDS, Mich. — Rachel Rebecca Bair, 101, passed away Sunday, April 24, 2011.

She was born May 21, 1909, in White Pigeon, Mich., the daughter of Albert and Eva (Cleveland) Collins.

Rachel received her teaching degree from Manchester College and later graduated from St. Francis with a master's degree in education. Rachel was a teacher for over 30 years. She taught in Orland, Ind., and Auburn Ind., at the Dekalb County Central United School District, where she was a pioneer in special education.

She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, the United Methodist Church and its choir. Rachel was also a Sunday school teacher and belonged to the United Methodist Women. She loved to read, do crossword puzzles, play cards and watch Detroit Tigers baseball, and hockey.

Rachel married the late Orval Bair on May 17, 1935. They were married for 61 years.

She is survived by her daughters, Norma (Jerry) Hampton of Eaton Rapids, and Natalie (Rev. C. Jarrell) Tyson of Mountain Home, Ark.; grandchildren, Karla Hampton Anderson of Marshall, Mich., Bret Gorny of Tuttle, Okla., Gregory Hampton of Oswego, Ill., Sean Kersey of Grand Ledge, Mich., Melissa Gorny VanVleet of Fargo, N.D., and Scott Kersey of Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Rachel was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Orval Bair; son, Burdette Bair; sisters, Floiad Collins Carlisle, Lois Carlisle and Genelle Collins; and brothers Russell Collins, Cleveland "Eddie" Colllins and Albertus Collins.

Graveside services will be held at noon April 27, 2011, at the Fairfield Cemetery in Hudson, Ind., with the Rev. C. Jarrell Tyson officiating. Memorial services will be held in Auburn at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Auburn First United Methodist Church, 1203 E. 7th St. Auburn, IN 46706, or Easter Seals, 233 S. Wacker Dr. Chicago, IL 60606.

Online condolences may be sent to www.shellyodell.com

Gwendolyn Clabaugh

GARRETT — Gwendolyn A. Clabaugh, 79 of Garrett, died on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at her residence.

She was born Aug. 24, 1931 in Wauksa, Wisc. to Otto A. and Lillian M. (Morse) Hitz and they preceded her in death.

She had worked as an assembler for Mossberg Hubbard and was the head union steward until her retirement in 1982. She then was a dispatcher at the Heimach Center in Auburn for several years.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda K. (Steven) Meyer and Canice M. (Juris) Adamsons, both of Garrett; three sons, Calvin C. (Vickie) Clabaugh of Waterloo, Simon R. Clabaugh of Wisc. and James F. (Gabriella) Clabaugh of Reading, Mich.; 14 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Frank E. Hitz of Murphysboro, Ark.; three sisters, Margaret (Gordon) Smith of Oconenowoc, Wis., Debbie (Lance) Marshardt of Waupaco, Wis., and Sharon Patryas of Waupaco, Wis. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Otto Hitz Jr. and John Hitz; two sisters, Elsie Milan Smith and Lauretta Zipfel, and a grandchild.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at 9 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 26 from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

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Paul Carroll

WATERLOO — Paul A. Carroll, 53, of Waterloo died Saturday, April 23, 2011, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Carroll was born Jan. 4, 1958, to Ruth Carroll and Francis Carroll Jr. He graduated from DeKalb High School in May 1976. He married Sandra D. (Pollard) Dart on Sept. 23, 1985, in Wichita Falls, Texas.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a demolitions expert. After his discharge, he worked in the construction industry for a few years, then worked for his local municipality, the city of Lawton, Okla., for several years before returning to Waterloo. For the past 16 years he worked for Waterloo as the street superintendent.

He did volunteer work within the community, including for the Waterloo Cemetery and veterans' graves.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Carroll of Waterloo; his mother, Ruth Carroll of Waterloo; sons Christopher W. Dart of Fort Wayne and Michael R. (Meagan) Dart of Cincinnati, Ohio; a grandson, Noah R. Dart of Cincinnati; half brothers Barry Carroll of Auburn, Dave Carroll of Florida and Richard "Dick" Carroll of Lawton, Okla.; an aunt and uncle, Marilyn and John Gurtner of Waterloo; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Francis Carroll Jr.

A memorial service will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until the 7 p.m. service at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne, or the American Cancer Society.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Patricia Engle

KENDALLVILLE — Patricia Engle, 75, of Kendallville died Saturday, April 23, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mrs. Engle

Mrs. Engle was a lifetime area resident.

She had worked at the Garrett Head Start, Hubbard Spool in Garrett, was a cook at Floyd's Place (now the Railroad Inn) in Garrett, did house cleaning, and took care of the elderly.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville. She was also a former member of the Kendallville Moose Lodge.

She was born April 12, 1936, in Noble County to Jack and Thelma (Schmidt) Trowbridge. She was married to George Brumbaugh, and he preceded her in death in October 1999. She then married William "Bill" Engle. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are two sons, Garnel Handshoe Jr. of Garrett and George A. Brumbaugh II of Garrett; a daughter, Catherine E. Keck and her companion, Clifford Roberts, of Kendallville; three stepsons, Marshall (Linda) Brumbaugh of Garrett, Jeff Brumbaugh of Kendallville and Michael William (Patty) Engle of Fort Wayne; a granddaughter she raised, Jessica Marzion of Kendallville; 13 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; six sisters, Donna Conrad of Kendallville, Helen Gillespie of Garrett, Judith Pretschold of Mt. Prospect, Ill., Jeanne Fredrickson of Avilla, Karen Conrad of Elkhart, and Janet Vian of Waterloo; and three brothers, Larry Trowbridge, Steven Trowbridge and Daniel Trowbridge, all of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Christina K. (Handshoe) See and Rose Ann (Handshoe) Devereau; a great-granddaughter, Christina Mae Handshoe; and a brother, Robert Lee Trowbridge.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Kendallville, with Father James Stoyle officiating. Burial will be in Sweet Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St. A prayer vigil will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Eliner Gingrich

AUBURN — Eliner H. Gingrich, 90, of Auburn died Sunday, April 24, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Gingrich

Mrs. Gingrich was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Auburn Alliance Church.

She was born Sept. 28, 1920, in Jackson Township, DeKalb County, to Donald and Mary (Weaver) Hawver.

She married Franklin D. Gingrich at the Methodist Church in Auburn on Aug. 16, 1941, with the Rev. Claude Garrison officiating. Mr. Gingrich passed away Dec. 17, 2005.

Surviving are a son, David Gingrich of Boston, Mass.; a daughter and son-in-law, Marymae and Brent Beaty of Auburn; and two grandchildren, Dacian Gingrich of Elyria, Ohio, and Taylor Beaty of DePauw University in Greencastle.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a brother, Linley Hawver; and a sister, Helen H. Johnson.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Dean Jewell officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. Sunday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Child Evangelism Fellowship, P.O. Box 365, Auburn, or Gideons International.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
APRIL 27 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Anna Thimlar

BUTLER — Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, at Butler Cemetery in Butler for Anna Belle Thimlar.

A reception will follow from 2-4:30 p.m. at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, 4099 C.R. 59, Butler.

Mrs. Thimlar died Nov. 20, 2010, at her home in Melbourne, Fla.

She was a former Butler resident.

Erma Lothamer

AUBURN — Erma J. Lothamer, 77, died Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Lothamer

She was born April 23, 1934, in Auburn to the late J. Albert and Helen J. (Freeman) Griffin.

Erma worked at Dana Corporation in Auburn for 30 years as a Secretary in the Personnel and Sales Departments before retiring in 1995.

She was an EFAP Committee member at Dana and president of Singles Club in Fort Wayne.

She loved cats, loved to do crafts and having and attending garage sales.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and MaryJo Hullinger of Kendallville and Timothy Hullinger of Auburn and Suzanne Hullinger of Elwood; two grandchildren, Lindsay (Drew) Thomas and Holly (Adam) Hullinger-Sirken; three stepgrandchildren, Samantha Bryant, Jared Barmes and Michael Barmes; a stepgreat-granddaughter, Faith Bryant; and a sister and brother-in-law, Patricia J. and Bernard Rohrer of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, David Griffin.

Services will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 30, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Tom Novy officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Manon

AUBURN —Robert D. "Bob" Manon, 80, of Auburn, died Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Manon

Mr. Manon was a production engineer for Bowmar Instrument in Fort Wayne for 32 years, retiring in 1993.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He had served in the U.S. National Guard.

Mr. Manon was born Aug. 24, 1930, in Auburn to Herbert and Pearl (Freed) Manon. He married Virginia M. "Ginny" Steigmeyer on Sept. 23, 1950, in Garrett. She died March 29, 2011.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Terry and Lynda Manon of Danville, Ky., David and Pam Manon of Auburn, Duaine and Patty Manon of Kendallville, and Jeffery and Sandy Manon of Longwood, Fla.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Julie and Gene Troyer of Ashley, and Amy Manon of Menasha, Wis.; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandson; and a sister, Janet Imhoff of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling one hour prior at the church. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

James Covell

AUBURN — James P. Covell, 73, of Auburn died Wednesday April 27, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Covell

He was born July 28, 1937, in Auburn to the late Dr. Harry M. and Evadna "Susie" (Dally) Covell.

Jim was a 1955 graduate of Auburn High School. He earned his BS degree and Master's Degree from Michigan State University.

He was a college professor for 28 years at Wright Junior College in Chicago teaching courses in biological sciences until his retirement in 1991.

He was a member of the Friends of the Eckhart Public Library, Auburn YMCA, a life member of National Rifle Association and a life member of Amateur Trap Shooting Association.

He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church and also attended Lakewood Park Baptist Church. He liked both churches so he split his time between both.

His interests were conservation, agriculture, animals, education, science and history (especially the Civil War era).

Jim is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Jack and Joyce Covell of Auburn; his fiance, Suzanne Phillips of Waterloo; and his cousins, Linda (Mike) Collins of Texas, Michael Harter of Texas and Charles (Karen) Covell of Florida.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Auburn First United Methodist Church in Auburn with the Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Russ Howard officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 1, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service Monday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed to DeKalb County Humane Shelter or Eckhart Public Library or Auburn YMCA.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ralph Shumway Jr.

GARRETT — Ralph F. Shumway Jr., 87 of Garrett, died at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 28, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Shumway

Mr. Shumway was the assistant manager at Seat Cover Charlie's in Fort Wayne for 33 years, retiring in 1986. Following his retirement, he worked at the Garrett Hardware for 23 years.

He was a WW II and Korean War veteran, serving in the Army.

Mr. Shumway was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

He was also a member of the Garrett American Legion Post #178, where he was the chaplain since 1993 and was a past commander and member of the color guard.

He was born Aug. 28, 1923, in Buffalo, N.Y., to Ralph E. Shumway Sr. and Ruby M. (Benedict) Shumway. He married Evelyn M. Smith on Aug. 23, 1947, in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Kim (Kathy) Shumway of Garrett; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and a sister.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Mondayat Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home with Brother Bud Owen officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, with military graveside honors by the U.S. Army and the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to the Garrett American Legion.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

STAR
APRIL 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Keith 'Andy' Crow

ST. JOE — Keith Andrew "Andy" Crow, 69, of St. Joe died Thursday, April 28, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Crow

Mr. Crow was born February 16, 1942, in Logansport, Indiana, to Richard and Kathryn (Lanz) Crow.

Andy was a graduate of Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in animal science. While attending college, he played the cornet in the Purdue Band. After graduating, he played in the Purdue Alumni Band, returning every year.

He was a long-standing member, elder, and Sunday School teacher of Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe and for the last several years has been a member, elder, and Sunday School teacher of St. Joe Church of Christ.

Andy was a dedicated public servant. He served on the DeKalb County Eastern School Board from 1978-1996, including eight terms as president. He was serving his third term as a DeKalb County Councilman. He also served on the DeKalb County Fair Board.

He was a member of the St. Joe Lions Club since 1969, serving twice as president.

He also had his private pilot's licenses and loved flying.

He was the co-owner of Crow's Rainbow Farm Center in St. Joe. He retired from National Serv-all in 2001, after 12 years of service.

He married Margie A. Fetters on June 1, 1963, in Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe.

Surviving are his wife, Margie Crow of St. Joe; two daughters and sons-in-law, Melissa and Mike Eshbach of St. Joe, and Lori and Keith Crigger of Warsaw, Kentucky; four grandchildren, Evan Eshbach, Emily Eshbach, Jason Kimmel, and Jenny Kimmel; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Pat and Mary Crow of Spencerville, Dan and Amerida Crow of St. Joe, and Mark and Donna Crow of St. Joe.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Terry Brown; and a niece, Delaney Brown.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Michael Booher, Jim Platner, and Doug Holley will be officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe.

Calling will also be from 2-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of floral tributes, the family strongly encourages memorials be directed to the St. Joe Church of Christ building fund or St. Joe Lions Club.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

'... our hero to the day he died'

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

CORUNNA — Peter Potts was, by all accounts, a hero of epic proportions. He loved his wife, family and prided himself in helping others any way possible.

Potts died April 3 in Corunna and was finally reunited with his beloved wife, Helen, said his son, Marty Potts.

A World War II hero, Peter Potts served in the Army under Gen. George Patton driving tanks. According to Marty Potts, his father was personally requested to join the unit by Patton, himself.

After the war, his father returned to the states and was set up on a blind date by his brother. Helen and Peter Potts fell head over heels in love and married in 1946.

"They were inseparable," Marty Potts said of his parents. "One didn't go anywhere without the other. Dad was deeply devoted to her."

Soon after the Pottses married, they were called by their church to take in a German foster child, displaced after the war. With two sons already, the couple was excited to foster a little girl.

They were surprised, though, when Eduard — a 17-year-old boy — showed up on their doorstep, said daughter Heather Graham. Her parents treated Eduard like one of their own, even though he was only a few years younger than they were at the time.

"They opened their home to Edi and treated him like a son," Graham said. The family kept in touch with Eduard once he returned to Germany, even taking trips abroad to visit.

A skilled carpenter, her father painstakingly built the family's home and several more in the area when he worked as a private contractor, Graham said. He enjoyed helping people fix electrical, plumbing or carpentry issues with their homes.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peter Potts enjoys a day in the Potts' family backyard while his four children play happily on a swingset.

"He was very well respected in this town, and people knew him to be honorable," Graham said. "He had a reputation for doing excellent work."

That reputation garnered him a position teaching the building trades class at DeKalb High School. Graham said the school recruited her dad, based on his skills. Even though Peter Potts dropped out of school in eighth grade, he was able to take education training in Indianapolis to become a certified teacher. He remained in that position for 17 years.

Potts' building trades class built one home from the ground up each year, every one a lasting tribute to his dad, Marty Potts said. But more than teaching, his father enjoyed watching the young men in his class learn.

"He would never belittle anyone," Marty Potts said. "He would just show them their error and have them do it over again." He said many of his father's former students attended his funeral and expressed their affection for him.

If the students loved her dad, her dad cared for them just as much, Graham said. And he took immense joy in seeing his students all grown-up.

When the family suffered the death of daughter Sylvia Potts in 1983, Peter Potts adopted his two granddaughters, Sarah and Molly, to ensure they were well taken care of.

"He was our hero," Graham said. "When other kids had superheroes they looked up to, we had dad. He was our hero to the day he died."

Donald Corbin

LIGONIER — Donald Scott Corbin, age 52, known as "The Mayor of Wilmont" of Wilmont, Ind., passed away unexpectedly early Sunday morning May 1, 2011.

Mr. Corbin

He was born on March 20, 1959, to Donald Corbin and Peggy (Ondersma) McGlothlin in Kalamazoo, Mich.

He was self employed and was known for caring for all the needs in the community of Wilmont. Whether someone needed their lawn mowed, something fixed, or just a helping hand he was always there to meet the need.

A natural athlete, he loved to play pool, ping pong, hockey, chess, football, and no matter the sport or task, he always excelled.

He attended the Cromwell United Methodist Church.

Donald will always be remembered for his selfless love of his family and especially his children. Above all else he loved and was dedicated to his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

He is survived by five children, Jessica, Halley, Ashley, and Tonya Corbin all of Garrett, Ind., and Izaiah Vandezande of Fort Wayne, Ind.; two grandchildren; his mother, Peggy McGlothlin of Garrett; four siblings, Mark (Kary) Hirschey of Larwill, Ind., Heidi Harlan of Garrett, Lyle McGlothlin of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Lynda McGlothlin of Garrett; his best friend, Les of North Webster; and last but not least, his dog Zeus.

A funeral service will be held in Donald's honor on Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Yeager funeral Home, 1589 Lincolnway South, Ligonier, IN 46767 with Pastor Dave officiating.

Friends may call from 5-7 p.m prior to the service.

A private family committal will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family in care of Yeager Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.yeagerfuneralhome.com.

Mary Greenwalt

SHREVEPORT, La. — Mary E. Greenwalt, 75, of Shreveport and formerly of Garrett died Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in Shreveport, La.

She is survived by four daughters, Judy Day of Garrett, Sharon Mudd of Shreveport, La., Deanna (Robert) Shafer of Garrett, Christina Hendricks of Shreveport, La. ; a son Donald G. Nelson of Auburn; and 15 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Celia Brumbaugh, and one daughter, Brenda Nelson.

A memorial service will held at a later date.

Larry Reed

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Larry Joe Reed, 50, of Surprise, Ariz., and formerly of Butler, Ind., died Saturday, April 30, 2011, at his home.

No calling or services are planned.

Memorials are to the family in care of Grace Langenfeld.

Marjorie Rhoden

HICKSVILLE, Ohio — Marjorie A. Rhoden, 76, died Sunday, May 1, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Rhoden

Mrs. Rhoden retired after 18 years at Spangler Candy Co. She had also worked as an EMT for the Farmer Rescue Squad from 1970 to 1980.

She was a member of the Lost Creek Emmanuel Missionary Church.

Mrs. Rhoden loved music, cooking and baking pies.

She was a 1953 graduate of Woodburn High School.

She was born on April 27, 1935, in Woodburn, Ind., the daughter of Otto and Louise (Flentje) Bumpus.

On December 25, 1953, she was united in marriage to Mason Rhoden in Payne, Ohio

Marjorie is survived by her husband, Mason; two daughters, Kathy (Dave) Byers of Bryan, Ohio, and Pat (Doug) Ayers of St. Joe, Ind.; two sons, Roger (Tomara) of Edgerton, Ohio, and Greg of Auburn, Ind.; (12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Helen Jean Hardesty of Oakwood, Ohio, and Olieta Bouldry of Fairbury, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three grandsons, Ramsey Rhoden, Nathan Rhoden and Anthony Short; eight sisters, and two brothers.

Services for Marjorie will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Lost Creek Emanuel Missionary Church with Pastor Brian Spangler officiating.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville.

Burial will be in Six Corners Cemetery, Hicksville.

Memorials may be made to Lost Creek Missionary Fund.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Daniel Widner

HUNTERTOWN — Daniel E. "Dan" Widner, 63 of Huntertown died Monday May 2, 2011, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center, Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. at the funeral home and also 1 hour prior to the service Thursday.

Memorials can be directed to the American Cancer Society.

A full obituary will run in Wednesday's paper.

Daniel Widner

HUNTERTOWN — Daniel E. "Dan" Widner, 63, of Huntertown died Monday, May 2, 2011, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Widner

Mr. Widner owned and operated Custom Research & Tabulations Inc. of Fort Wayne.

He was a member of DeKalb Masonic Lodge 214, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Mizpah Shrine and Jester's Club.

He was born June 22, 1947, in Fort Wayne.

His mother Luella M. (Hanauer) Fortman lives in Auburn and his father and stepmother, Charles and Gladys Sue Widner, also are of Auburn.

Along with his parents he is survived by three brothers, Larry (Hope) Widner of Auburn, Jim (Cindy) Fortman of Fort Wayne and Al (Sue) Woodcox of Bowling Green, Ky.; a sister, Bev Oberlin of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center, Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Perry Township Cemetery, Huntertown.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service Thursday.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Herbert Bausch

SUN CITY, Ariz. — Herbert Bausch, 81, died Thursday, March 10, 2011.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturdayat Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn, with John Manon officiating.

A reception will follow the service at Saint Andrew Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 320 W. Fourth St., Auburn.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is assisting the family with local arrangements.

Marion Hanes

HAMILTON — Marion Onalee Hanes, 95 years, passed away at 2:24 p.m. Monday, May 2, 2011, at Lutheran Life Village, Kendallville, where she had been a resident the past two years.

Onalee was born August 14, 1915, in Beaverton, Michigan, to the late Grover Victor and Leah Betsy (Snyder) Klinkel.

She was a 1933 graduate of Butler High School, and then graduated from International Business College in Fort Wayne in 1935.

She married Robert Lyle Hanes on September 4, 1936. in Hamilton. He preceded her in death on October 9, 2000.

Onalee and her husband Robert were co-owners of Hanes Electric in Hamilton for 20 years. Ten years later, she retired as a bookkeeper from the former General Telephone Company in Angola.

She and her family were active members of the Hamilton United Methodist Church. She had formerly been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She and her husband were very active in her children's lives and many family weekends were spent at their home on Hamilton Lake. They moved to Leesburg, Florida, following retirement, before returning to Indiana in 2000.

Surviving are her three children, David F. (Linda) Hanes of Valparaiso, Indiana, Bobbie (Victor) Nantz of Rome City, Indiana, and Onalee Ann (William) Coburn of St. Joe, Indiana; six grandchildren, Kelly (Virgil) Jackson of Rome City, Indiana, Kerry (Christopher) Frymier Sr. of Midland, Michigan, William (Rosanna) Coburn of Orland, Indiana, Amy (Robert) Hillegass of Auburn, Indiana, Robert (Amy) Hanes of Elburn, Illinois and Dr. Corey (Wendy) Hanes of Neenah, Wisconsin; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Max Klinkel; a sister, Frances Cleland; and a grandson, Nicholas Ryan Hillegass.

Funeral services for Marion Onalee Hanes will be held at noon, Monday, May 9, 2011, in the Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, 3985 E. Church St., Hamilton, with Pastor Jack Smith officiating. Interment will follow in Hamilton Cemetery.

Visitation for Onalee will begin at 11 a.m. Monday in the funeral home and last until the start of services at noon.

Memorial contributions in the name of Marion Onalee Hanes may be given to Parkview Noble Hospice, 1836 Ida Red Road, Kendallville, IN 46755.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the online guest book may be signed at www.oberlinturnbull.com.

Jeanette Mast

AUBURN — Jeanette I. Mast, 83, passed from this life to be with Jesus on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, surrounded by her children.

Mrs. Mast

She was born on November 30, 1927, in Fort Wayne, Ind., to the late Donald and Elsie (Diedrich) Pettit, and resided much of her life in DeKalb County. She married Keith Mast on December 1, 1972 and he preceded her in death in 2004.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Gene and Ken Pettit.

Surviving are her sons, Kenneth (Leola), Chuck and John Stout; daughters, Marsha (Max) Doctor, Cindy Zook and Debbie Cauley; and many grandchildren.

Calling will be held today, Friday, May 6, 2011, from 5-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, Ind.

Services will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Russ Abel officiating.

Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

A life of love, activity, goodness

June Parr devoted time to others

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — In her mid-80s and less than a year after hip surgery, June Parr was fly fishing on Colorado's Frying Pan River. She caught and released 10 trout that day.

When she was 89, Mrs. Parr joined a group of young children for a game of musical chairs on a November Day in Pokagon State Park.

In her later years, she climbed to the top of the bleachers at the East Noble football field with her family to watch the Fourth of July fireworks over Bixler Lake.

Mrs. Parr ran up the stairs going into her home, not walking as most people in their late 80s do, and she rode her bicycle from the family farm north of Kendallville to visit her childhood friend and neighbor Fern Cochard, said Pat Cochard, Fern Cochard's daughter.

"They played together as kids, and my mother would tell stories about June climbing our mulberry tree, not just to eat mulberries, but because she loved to climb trees," Pat Cochard said.

Mrs. Parr canned and froze vegetables from her vegetable garden each year and helped her daughter-in-law discover a new recipe for cookies. She helped make pie dough for 400 apple pies each year to raise money for her church at the Apple Festival of Kendallville.

This active lifestyle started much earlier in her life. Her daughter, Becky, recalls when she was a young girl how her mother stayed busy from sunup to sundown:

"I remember many times as a child, on cold, snowy days, she would come into the house from doing the evening chores on the farm and say, 'We have time for a fast game of fox and geese before supper.' My sister and I would throw on our coats and go outside and play with her in the snow."

Mrs. Parr lived an active life devoted to helping others.

She was a member of the Noble County 4-H committee for more than 50 years and the Charm and Chatter Extension Homemakers' Club and served as president and treasurer of the Noble County Extension Homemakers' Clubs. Through her volunteer involvement in 4-H, she devoted thousands of hours to Noble County 4-H activities and showed thousands of women and children how to cook and sew.

"Simply put, mom had a servant's heart," said Becky. "She wanted to make sure everyone else was taken care of before she took care of herself. She would not sit down at the dinner or supper table until everything was perfect, always popping up and down."

The Rev. James Stoyle of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville described this long-time parishioner, wife, mother and grandmother in this way: "June Parr lived a life of love, of activity, of goodness. She pleased God by loving her family."

Mrs. Parr, 91, passed away April 28, 2011, at the family farm north of Kendallville her grandfather purchased in 1898.

In 2000, she wasn't very happy to hear her son, Dennis, and his wife, Sandra, were moving to Denver because her son took a job with Hospital Shared Services, but that didn't discourage her from visiting them.

"Mom was uncomfortable with flying, so she took the train from Waterloo to Denver," said her son. She was surprised to see how remote her son lived from the Denver metro area.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

June Parr of rural Kendallville catches a trout in her mid-80s while fly fishing in Colorado's Frying Pan river.

"When mom walked out onto the deck of our house, where views included Pike's Peak, she looked at me and proclaimed we lived in God's country," he said.

Evelyn Shumaker first became friends with Mrs. Parr when they were in 4-H together, and they stayed close until her death.

"She was so kind, and loved helping people," said Shumaker, who recalled how her friend worked with children in 4-H with their hands-on activities. "She was so nice. There wasn't a mean bone in her body, and you wanted to be around her, because you learned so much from her."

Sandra Parr, Mrs. Parr's daughter-in-law, recalled how much she enjoyed cooking and baking in the kitchen with her mother-in-law and coming up with new recipes.

"She had a great basic cookie recipe we enhanced with the addition of walnuts, raisins, chocolate chips and oatmeal. When we realized we had a winner, we needed a name. June said, 'Let's call them boxcar cookies.' The cookies became a favorite in Sandra's bakery, The Chocolate Garden.

Mrs. Parr was co-marshal of the 2009 Noble County Community Fair parade, assisted with the fair's livestock auction and helped in Floral Hall during the fair. She was an active member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and served as a Eucharistic minister.

Alice Hudec

EDGERTON, Ohio — Alice Ann Hudec (nee Sykora), age 89, died Wednesday, May 4, 2011, at Dream Haven Senior Group Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

She was the devoted wife of 47 years to the late Joseph T. Hudec; cherished mother of Carolyn R. Reszel (Gregory) of St. Joe, Ind., Joseph J. (Linda) of Middletown, Ohio and James F. (Nancy) of Plano, Texas.

Mrs. Hudec

Alice was also the loving grandmother of Cynthia L. Opperman (Robert), Charles E. Yeaser Jr. (Trishilana), Joseph E. Hudec, James L. Hudec (Laura), Christopher J. Yeaser (Sheila) and Christian F. Yeaser (Libby); great-grandmother of Erika and Mia Opperman, Ian and Noah Yeaser and Cole and Beau Yeaser; a fond cousin; aunt of nieces and nephews; dear daughter of the late James and Rose Sykora; and dearest sister of the late James J. Sykora.

Alice was born, raised, and lived in Cleveland, Ohio, most of her life.

She was a homemaker and life member of the American Sokol gymnastic and cultural organization and Czechoslovak Society of America.

She loved her family, volunteering, playing the piano, reading, puzzles, making apple pies and needlepoint.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dream Haven LLC, 233 E. Morrison Str., Edgerton, OH 43517 or a charity of your choice.

Funeral services will be Monday, May 9, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. at the Schulte & Mahon-Murphy Funeral Home, 5252 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio, located between Richmond and Brainard, where the family will receive friends today from 2-6 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Interment will be in Knollwood Cemetery.

Robert Houser

FORT WAYNE — Robert Joseph Houser, 80, passed away Sunday, May 8, 2011.

Born on Nov. 4, 1930 in Fort Wayne, he was the son of the late John and Florence (Henry) Houser.

Mr. Houser

He attended Most Precious Blood School and St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. After his education at the seminary, he played football for the Saint Joe Athletic Club.

He worked several years for Schenkel and Sons which led to the founding and operation of his business Robert J. Houser and Son Contractors for 50 years.

He enjoyed coaching CYO football for 35 years at St. Pete's, Most Precious Blood and Queen of Angels.

He was involved with the Queen of Angels Choir and the Central Catholic and Bishop Dwenger Booster Clubs, was a member of The Knights of Columbus and a volunteer at Saint Joseph Hospital.

He was a parishioner of Queen of Angels and for the last 13 years made St. Michael's of Waterloo his home parish.

He married Mary Katherine Wyss on March 31, 1951, in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Wayne and she survives. Also surviving are six children, Anne (Stephen) Lawrence of Fort Wayne, Kitty (Herman) Haffner of Crawfordsville, Joe (Kate) Houser of Fort Wayne, Julie (Amy) Houser of Fort Wayne, John (Nanette) Houser of Fort Wayne and Dan (Tracy) Houser of Fort Wayne; 13 grandchildren, Ben (Michelle) Lawrence, MaryClare (Ben) Akers, Bob Lawrence, Emmy (Sean) Jones, Rose Lawrence, John (Sarah) Houser, Kelly (Mike) Matthews, Erin (Mike) Molfenter, Bridget Houser, Caitlin Houser, Lauren Houser, Jim Haffner and Abbie (Cory) Haffner; five great-grandchildren (and two more expected in September); two sisters-in-law, Rosie Houser of Fort Wayne and Joan Houser of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, James Michael Houser; two brothers, Jerry and Milton Houser; and a sister, Maxine Smith-Meese.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 12, 2011, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father Dave Carkenord officiating. Private burial will be take place at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Calling is 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo and also one hour prior to the service at the church. A rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to St. Michael's Building Fund or Queen of Angels Athletics.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Beatrice Leins

WATERLOO — Beatrice E. Leins, 86, died Monday, May 9, 2011, at St. Anthony Nursing Home in Crown Point, Ind.

Mrs. Leins

Mrs. Leins was a homemaker.

She had worked for 15 years at Hamilton Standard in Auburn, retiring in 1985.

Mrs. Leins was a former member of St. Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn, the Kendallville American Legion Auxiliary and Waterloo VFW Auxiliary.

She was born May 17, 1924, in Antwerp, Ohio, to Charles Garner and Golda (Jordan) Peffley. She married Eldon Leins on Oct. 27, 1951, in Antwerp, Ohio, and he died June 18, 1986.

Surviving are three sons Dennis Wayne (Melody) Peffley of Butler, Michael Lee (Shirley) Leins of Crown Point and Donald Eldon Leins of Auburn; two daughters, Sue Ann Payne of Bucyrus, Ohio, and Judy Lynn (Dale) Hall of Cromwell; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; seven brothers; and three sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna. Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Marks Lutheran Church or Alzheimer's Association.

To send condolences visit fellerandclark.com.

William Newbauer Jr.

FORT WAYNE — William J. "Bill" J. Newbauer Jr., 93, passed away peacefully into eternity at about 1:15 a.m. Monday morning May 9, 2011, at Heritage Park Nursing Home in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he had been since March 4, 2011.

Mr. Newbauer

William was born in South Bend, Ind., and grew up in Altona, Ind., near Garrett.

He married Bonnie M. Moore who preceded him in death in October 2001.

William served in the U.S. Navy during WWII in the Pacific Theater aboard an attack transport ship where he was a boat engineer on a "Higgins Boat" landing craft (LCVP).

In civilian life, he worked as a tool and die and mold maker.

Surviving are three children, a daughter, Deann K. (Jerry) Dyben of New Haven, Ind.; a son, Stephen A. (Lucy) Newbauer of Fort Wayne, Ind., a son, Jon M. Newbauer of Brooksville, Fla., 10 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

His parents, William J. Newbauer Sr. and Marian (Newbauer) Stevens preceeded him in death, as did his sister, Dorothy Rathert.

There will be no services of any kind as per his request.

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Douglas Emrick

AVILLA — Douglas B. "Doug" Emrick, 68, of Avilla died Tuesday, May 10, 2011, in his residence.

Mr. Emrick

Mr. Emrick was a lifetime area resident.

He graduated from Salem Center High School in 1961.

Mr. Emrick was a machinist at Morr Pattern and Tool in Kendallville and retired from Pease Windamatic in Huntertown.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

He was born January 16, 1943, in Kendallville to Toellner and Thelma (Ewell) Emrick. On December 21, 1963, at Zion Lutheran Church in DeKalb County he married Sandra D. Smith.

Surviving are his wife, Sandra D. "Sandie" Emrick of Avilla; two daughters, Monica Duehmig of Kendallville and Michelle (Ed) Keil of Huntertown; five grandchildren, Justin Liedel, Hillary (Jason) Kline, Kyle Duehmig, Kelsie Duehmig, and Drew Keil; a great-grandson, William Kline; two sisters, Marilyn Kreig of Fort Wayne and Judy Cooley of Ligonier; and a brother, David (Anna) Emrick of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be Friday, May 13, 2011, at 11 a.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Dr. Robert Shriner and the Rev. Paul B. Griebel of St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville, officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren and great-grandson. Active pallbearers will be Delbert Smith, John Baker, Johnathan Smith, Brandon Hicks, Eric Rupley and Rex Snyder.

Calling is Thursday, May 12, 2011, from 4 to 8 p.m. and one hour prior to services on Friday in the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church, Parkview Noble Home Health Care and Hospice, or Make-A-Wish Foundation.

View a video tribute after Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Alice Houlton

AUBURN — Alice E. Houlton, 88, of Auburn died Monday, May 9, 2011, at her home.

No calling or services are planned at this time.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Barbara Froelich

GARRETT — Barbara A. Froelich, 74, of Garrett died Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

No services are planned.

She will be buried in Washington North Cemetery in Indianapolis at a later date.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn are assisting the family with arrangements.

John Bury

AUBURN — John Lloyd Bury, 77, died Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at his home.

He was born March 5, 1934, in Fort Wayne to John Stanley and Elsie May (Baker) Bury.

Mr. Bury

He was a 1953 graduate of Jackson High School in Jackson, Michigan.

He served in the U.S. Navy from July 7, 1953, to June 18, 1955, serving with the SeaBees, a construction battalion.

Mr. Bury worked as a plumber and in construction. For 10 years he was the superintendent of the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit that joined the U.S. with Canada until his retirement in 1995.

He was a member of the Plumbers Union Local 190 of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

He married Sharon AEtta Mitchell on June 27, 1956, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffery (Debra) Bury of Sterling Heights, Mich., and Todd (Sandy) Bury of Auburn; six grandchildren, Jeffery (Steff) Bury, Alicia Perrin, Valerie (Daniel) Cathey, William Ellerman, Joshua Bury and Todd Bury; nine great-grandchildren; and a brother, James E. Bury of Greensboro, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Marjorie Gartner.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MAY 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

William Miner

BUTLER — William D. "Bill" Miner, 85, of Butler died Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Miner

Mr. Miner was the supervisor of security for Omniplex, retiring in 2000. He also worked as a supervisor in the foundry industry for 22 years, including the Fort Wayne Foundry for 12 years and the Pontiac Foundry for five years.

He was a member, Sunday school teacher, board member, and head trustee of the Nazarene Church. The church gave him a special certificate for his work in the church.

Bill centered his life around God and his family, especially his wife, children and grandchildren.

He was a charter member of COPS.

He was born Feb. 14, 1926, in Conesville, Ohio, to Harry E. and Nellie M. (Glosser) Miner.

He married Dorothy L. Kinney on April 22, 1950, in Greenup, Kentucky. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, George E. Miner of Hamilton, Scott B. and Lana Miner of Butler, and Mark A. and Teri Miner of Hamilton; two daughters and a son-in-law, Sherri L. Robinson of Fort Wayne, and Susan D. and Nathan Young of Jackson, Tenn.; 13 grandchildren, John A. Farmer, Shannone M. Hart, Tricia L. Miner, Eric W. Miner, Amy A. Stansbery, Jeremy W. Miner, Nick Miner, Andrea J. L. Robinson, Joshua A. Young, Danniell N. Batista, Hannah J. L. Miner, Hope D. Miner, and Madeline E. Miner; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, William D. Miner Jr.; five brothers, Harry E. Miner, Fred E. Miner, Jerry Q. Miner, James E. Miner, and George M. Miner; and two sisters, Lucile D. Steffen, and Rosemary J. Miner.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Scott B. Miner officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery in Butler.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Concerns of Police Survivors, COPS.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MAY 14 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Joe Dohner

MONTPELIER, Ohio — Joe E. Dohner, 65, of Montpelier, Ohio, died Thursday evening, May 12, 2011, in his home following an illness.

Born April 6, 1946, at Butler, Indiana, to Howard Eugene and Jennibell (Whitman) Dohner, he was a former Butler, Indiana, and Edgerton, Ohio, resident. He had been a Montpelier resident since 1967.

Joe had retired in 1992 as a machine operator from the former Mohawk Tools Inc. of Montpelier where he had been employed for 26 years.

He was an active participant at the Montpelier Senior Center, as well as enjoyed serving as an active volunteer at Valley-of-the-Pines RV Park at Angola, Indiana.

On July 12, 1964, he was married to Jean E. Baughman, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons, John (Lisa) Dohner and Jerry (fiancee Annette Brown) Dohner, both of Montpelier; four grandchildren, Jason (Tori) Dohner, Joey (Amy) Dohner, Amanda (special friend Matt Strobel) Dohner, Jeri (special friend Christopher Semenovich), all of Montpelier; four great-grandchildren, Jarron, Joel, Tayla, and Aubrey Dohner; and a brother, Clyde (Phyllis) Dohner of Auburn, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Charlotte Husted.

Private family services will be held.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Montpelier.

Suggested memorials are to Hospice of Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers or to the Montpelier Senior Center.

Arrangements are by Wilson-Geesey Funeral Home, Montpelier.

Condolences to the Dohner family may be made at www.wilsongeeseyfuneralhome.com.

Herber noted for fireplaces, kindness

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Robert Herber was known for his fireplaces he built, in addition to his random acts of kindness he never wanted any hoopla over.

Mr. Herber, 88, of Fremont, died April 25 at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was the retired owner of Lakewood Mobile Home Park in Fremont and was also a builder and owner of Herber Construction.

He was born Oct. 24, 1922 in Fort Wayne to Oscar and Sophia (Fahrenbach) Herber and they preceded him in death.

His first wife, June (Eckman) Herber, preceded him in death March 5, 1982. He married his second wife, Lois (Adams) Herber on Aug. 7, 1982 and she survives.

Lois said she was married to Robert's brother, Stan, for 32 years. He died. Lois' mentor was June, Robert's first wife, and she died a few years after Stan. "My boys and I brought dinner to (Robert) and (love) just happened," Lois said.

Mr. Herber was a star athlete, graduating in 1941 from Fort Wayne North Side High School, where he was an all-state performer for the track and cross country teams. He was the runner-up in the mile distance run at the state track meet and recorded the fastest mile time in the state his senior year — 4 minutes, 28 seconds.

He earned a scholarship to Indiana University, which he attended one year before being drafted into the U.S. Army and serving in World War II.

Herber

Mr. Herber was a builder. "He built wonderful fireplaces — limestone in the basement and brick," Lois said. "He loved to build. We bought an old cabin in Curtis, Mich. and he put in knotty pine (and remodeled it)."

Lois said her husband was still building at the age of 72. He even installed steps going down to the lake and she said he worked by tying a rope around his waist and going up and down.

"He was very kind. I never did anything wrong in his eyes," she said. "He helped many people over the years."

Mr. Herber loved the outdoors including pheasant hunting and fishing, the lake, and playing golf. "He loved it here. Even though we went to Florida for the winter, he couldn't wait to come back," she said.

One of Mr. Herber's twin sons, Kevin, purchased the mobile home park from his father in 1994. His parents — Robert and June, who Kevin said made a good team — purchased ground at Barton Lake and started the trailer court in 1961. That park has now grown to 193 lots. "We wanted to keep (Lakewood) in the family. In the 50s and 60s, he built several homes in the county. He was a mason and general contractor," Kevin said.

"He was very humble. He was known for working with people. In several instances, people came back to thank him and he didn't remember (doing anything special)."

Services for Mr. Herber were held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Angola, with the Rev. Fred Pasche officiating. Burial was in Jamestown Cemetery, Fremont. Memorials may be made to the Steuben County Cancer Association.

STAR
MAY 2011 Auburn, Indiana
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Stanley Vincent

AUBURN — Stanley Earl Vincent, 82, of Auburn, died Friday, May 13, 2011 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He owned and operated Sentron Company.

He served in the National Guard and was a former member of the Garrett Rotary and First Church of Christ Garrett where he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. Most recently he attended the First Church of Christ in Butler.

Mr. Vincent was born Aug. 10, 1928 in Middlebury to the late Orist Harold and Grace Lenora (Esch) Vincent. He married Mary Elizabeth Miller on Nov. 9, 1949, and she preceded him in death on June 28, 2005.

He is survived by two sons, Randy Vincent, Dallas, Texas, and Kevin Vincent, Chicago, Ill.; two daughters, Pamela Reinoehl, Garrett, and Karen Reynolds, Urbana, Ill.; nine grandchildren; two brothers, Wayne Vincent, Hamilton, Mo., and Keith Vincent, Tampa, Fla.; and three sisters, Helen Werich, Martinsville, Lenora Coyle, Elkhart and Texas, and Carol Johnson, Goshen.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Walter Vincent, and a sister, Lois Miller.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, Ind.

Calling will be two hours prior to services Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Butler Church of Christ or the Diabetes Association.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MAY 16 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Bonnie Raeke

GRABILL — Bonnie Lue Raeke, 77, died Saturday, May 14, 2011, at her home in Grabill.

She was born on May 6, 1934, in Spencerville to the late Delbert Roscoe and Garnet Gloria (Hudson) Furnish. She married Robert Theodore Raeke on Nov. 1, 1952, at the United Methodist parsonage in Spencerville.

Surviving are a son, Wayne E. (Jan) Raeke of Fremont; grandchildren Daniel L. (Jenny) Raeke of Lafayette, Wayne E. Raeke II of West Lafayette, and Robert G. Raeke of Fremont; two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Brody Raeke; a sister, Judith Howard of Union City, Ohio; and brothers James Furnish of Hamilton and Jerry Furnish of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by twin sister, Bettie Sue Furnish, sister Nancy Fogle and brother William Furnish.

Bonnie retired from GTE, now Verizon, after 38 1/2 years of service. She is the past president of Telephone Pioneers of America, a member of Spencerville Eastern Star, Leo American Legion, New Haven VFW and the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Spencerville. She attended the Spencerville United Methodist Church in Spencerville, where she enjoyed being involved with the Ladies Group and serving meals to the St. Joe Lions Club.

Calling will be on Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Services will be on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Donna Gammon officiating. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Nancy Panning

GARRETT — Nancy Rebekah Panning, "The Cricket Lady," age 76, died on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

She was born March 21, 1935, in Auburn to R.D. and Eunice (Rufner) Parker.

She along with her former husband, Jack Panning, operated Panning's Crickets, Bait & Tackle Shop in Garrett for over 20 years.

She was a homemaker and mother to six children, Lyn Grogg of Fremont, Todd (Renee) Panning of Garrett and Tonia (Andy) Baker of Avilla; a grandmother to nine grandchildren, Stacey Grogg Williamson of Tampa, Fla., Amanda Fehmann of Fort Wayne, Chad Baker of Fort Wayne, Jessica Baker of Avilla, Kyle Baker of Avilla, Sarah Baker Coe of Avilla, Amber Panning Dock of LaOtto and Chrystal and Ashley Panning of Garrett. She was a great-grandmother to 17 and a great-great-grandmother to two.

Also surviving are three sisters, Frankie Bennet of Largo, Fla., Donna Benner of Garrett and Bobbie Hicks of Kendallville.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, R.D. Parker and Eunice Moses; a son, Nate Panning; two infants, Johnny Lee and Angela Gale Panning; a sister Dottie Perry; and a brother, Fayette Parker.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, May 20, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Thomas Funeral Home.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guest book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Bonnie Raeke

GRABILL — Bonnie Lue Raeke, 77, died Saturday, May 14, 2011, at her home in Grabill.

She was born on May 6, 1934, in Spencerville to the late Delbert Roscoe and Garnet Gloria (Hudson) Furnish. She married Robert Theodore Raeke on Nov. 1, 1952, at the United Methodist parsonage in Spencerville.

Surviving are her husband, Robert Raeke, of Grabille; a son, Wayne E. (Jan) Raeke of Fremont; grandchildren Daniel L. (Jenny) Raeke of Lafayette, Wayne E. Raeke II of West Lafayette, and Robert G. Raeke of Fremont; two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Brody Raeke; a sister, Judith Howard of Union City, Ohio; and brothers James Furnish of Hamilton and Jerry Furnish of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by twin sister, Bettie Sue Furnish, sister Nancy Fogle and brother William Furnish.

Bonnie retired from GTE, now Verizon, after 38 1/2 years of service. She is the past president of Telephone Pioneers of America, a member of Spencerville Eastern Star, Leo American Legion, New Haven VFW and the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Spencerville. She attended the Spencerville United Methodist Church in Spencerville, where she enjoyed being involved with the Ladies Group and serving meals to the St. Joe Lions Club.

Calling will be today, Tuesday, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Services will be on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Donna Gammon officiating. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

N. Maxine Miller

HICKSVILLE, Ohio — N. Maxine Miller, 83, died Monday, May 16, 2011, at Bryan Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in Bryan.

Mrs. Miller was a graduate of Auburn High School.

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Sherwood.

She was born Aug. 30, 1927, in Auburn, Ind., to Raymond and Grace (Carmer) Albright. She married David Miller Oct. 23, 1946. He preceded her in death Sept. 15, 1983.

Surviving are two daughters, Rebecca (Frank) Philpot of Napoleon and Virginia Congleton of Hicksville; six grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a sister, Georgia Hart of Missouri; and a daughter-in-law, Jannette Huggins of Lincolnton, N.C.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, David L. Miller and Warren "Butch" Miller; a brother, Jack Albright; and two sisters, June Miller and Edna Smith.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville. Burial will be in Lost Creek Cemetery, Hicksville.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Ohio.

Online condolences may be sent to www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Terry Lockhart

HUDSON —Terry Lee Lockhart, 58, died Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Mr. Lockhart farmed, was a truck driver and worked at Moore's Business Forms.

He was a member of the National Guard.

Mr. Lockhart was a 1971 graduate of DeKalb High School.

He was a member of Cedar Lake Church Of Christ.

He was born May 18, 1952, in Garrett to Richard and Velma (Kniss) Lockhart. His mother is deceased and his father and stepmother, Richard and Lois Jean Lockhart survive in Ashley.

Also surviving are two daughters, Stacy Lockhart of Hudson and Emily Grigsby of LaGrange; a brother, Alan and Brenda Lockhart of Ashley; two sisters, Kathy Orwig of Ashley and Linda and Jerry Engstrand of Hopkinton, New Hampshire; three grandchildren, Derrik Gibson, Hayley Prater and Jason Grigsby; and a stepsister, Shelley and Ken Meyer of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Jason James Lockhart

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson-with Steve Evans officiating.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday.

Condolences may be sent online to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Connie Nash

ASHLEY — Connie M. Nash, 62, died Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at her home in Ashley.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the Ashley Church of God, 101 N. Gonser St., Ashley, with Pastor Robert Neace officiating. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery in Pleasant Lake.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family in care of James Nash.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Earl Bromley Sr.

COLUMBIA CITY — Earl L. Bromley Sr., 51, of Noble County died at 10:29 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at his home. He had been battling cancer for the past three years.

Mr. Bromley

He was born February 12, 1960, in Columbia City, Indiana, a son of Floyd and Evlon (Harrington) Bromley.

His formative years were spent in Noble County. He completed his education at West Noble High School.

On July 29, 1983, he was united in marriage to Linda S. Wade. They made their home in Whitley and Kosciusko counties before moving to Noble County in 1991.

He was a member of Ormas Baptist Church and a lifetime member of North American Hunt Club.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Linda; two sons, Earl (Katie) Bromley Jr. of Noble County and Tim (Bonnie Smith) Halsey of Columbia City; three grandchildren, Nick Bromley, Jasmine Smith and Ashley Smith; a sister, Shirley Richards of Avilla; and four brothers, Don Bromley of Huntington, Willie Bromley of Cromwell, Ronnie Bromley of Auburn and Arnie Bromley of Cromwell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Robert Bromley, David Bromley, Chuck Bromley; and a sister, Nancy Elliott.

The funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. Friday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, with visitation from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the final expense account at Smith & Sons Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent to www.smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

David Gingery

GARRETT — David Wayne Gingery, 27 of Garrett died Monday, May 17, 2011, from injuries sustained in a work-related accident.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Church at Garrett.

Julia Boltz

GARRETT — Julia A. Boltz, age 66, of Garrett, Ind., died at 3:22 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Boltz

She was born September 21, 1944, in Garrett, Ind., to Dale and Victoria M. (Sherban) Bennett and he preceded her in death. Julia married Wayne E. Boltz on June 12, 1965, in Garrett.

She had worked as a nurse's aide at DeKalb memorial Hospital for 15 years, before going back to school. She was an LPN at Sacred Heart Hospital, Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home, and DeKalb Memorial Hospital. She was one of the first EMT's in Garrett, working for 8 years.

Julia was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett and was a member of the DeKalb County Homemaker's Chorus.

Julia is survived by her husband: Wayne E. Boltz, Garrett, Ind.; parents, William A. and Victoria M. Ort, Garrett, Ind.; stepmother: Annabelle Bennett, Fort Wayne, Ind.; a daughter, Bethann (Barry) Ousley, Syracuse, Ind.; and two sons, David (Joyce) Boltz and Michael (Janell) Boltz, both of Garrett, Ind.

She is also survived by two brothers, William "Chuck" (Terry) Ort, Garrett, Ind., and Bruce (Judy) Bennett, Fort Wayne, Ind.; two sisters, Alice (Jerry) Weller, Garrett, Ind., and Pam Czarnowski, Plymouth, Mich. She is survived by her grandchildren, David Jr. (Toni) Boltz, Tiffany Boltz and Cord Boltz all of Garrett, Ind., Jessica (Cody) Immel, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Caitlan Boltz, Aiden Boltz, Conner Boltz and Sophia Boltz, all of Garrett, Ind., Lee (Shawna) Boltz, Huxley, Texas, Charley Ousley, Syracuse, Ind.; Ethan Ousley, Syracuse, Ind., and Justin Ousley, Columbia City, Ind.

She is survived by her great-grandchildren, Payton Boltz, Aleha Boltz and Alexis Boltz ,all of Garrett, and Xion Immel, Fort Wayne, Ind., and a stepgreat-granddaughter, Hannah, Huxley, Texas.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Sunday, May 22, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home , Garrett, Ind., and from 9-10 a.m. Monday, May 23, 2011, at the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

Services will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, May 23, 2011, at the First Church of Christ, Garrett, Ind.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett, Ind.

Memorials are to the Lutheran Hospital Kidney Transplant Unit.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ruth Colestock

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Ruth Genevieve (Hines) Wren Colestock of Clearwater, Fla., went home to her Lord on May 14, 2011.

Mrs. Colestock

Ruth was born May 30, 1924, in Niles, Mich., the daughter of Harold and Ellen Hines.

Ruth is survived by three sisters, Doris Gray of Leo, Evelyn Bonar of Clearwater and Carolyn Scott of Auburn. A brother, Harold Hines Jr. ("Johnnie") predeceased her.

Ruth was married to Clair Raymond Wren, who died July 16, 1974. She was the mother of Jill Benhower and husband, Dennis "Ben" Benhower, of Camp Sherman, Ore., and loving grandmother of Bethany Wren Gunnarson and her husband, Luke, of Oregon, Kyle David Benhower of Oregon, and Jeramy Cassady of Los Angeles, Calif.

She was the mother of Randy Jack Wren who died in infancy, and Jack David Wren, who predeceased her.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Robert Colestock, and stepchildren, Rochelle Ann Specht, Robert Jay Colestock of Boca Raton, Fla., Larry Douglas Colestock of Fort Wayne, Robert William Colestock of Hanson, Mass., and James Leonard Colestock of Wheat Ridge, Colo.

An extended family and many friends will miss her love, affection, laughter and enthusiasm.

Ruth's ashes will be borne by the wind over her favorite mountain, Black Butte, near Sisters, Ore.

Memorials are to Suncoast Hospice in Clearwater.

There has never been a more loving, kind, sweet soul and she rests now in The Lord's caring arms.

Kenneth Nodine

GARRETT — Kenneth Nodine, 62, of Garrett died at 7:10 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Nodine

He was born Oct. 9, 1948 in Garrett.

Kenneth is survived by his four sons: Troy (Stephanie) Nodine of St. Mary's, Ohio, William (Lisa) Nodine of Garrett, Travis (Rhonda) Nodine of Garrett, and Jeremy Nodine of Fort Wayne.

He is also survived by five grandchildren: Kristine Nodine of Garrett; Taylor Nodine of Garrett; Karensa Nodine of Churubusco; Shayna Nodine of Auburn; and Zane Nodine of Garrett.

Also surviving are four people very special to Kenneth, Alan (Eleisha) Goble, Dexter Sexton, Sam (Lisa) Hicks and David (Sue) Daniels.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lafayette and Mildred (Streb) Nodine; two sisters, Barbara Isham and Kathleen Kurtz; and his best friend, David Pippenger.

Kenneth worked at the former Northern Indiana Fuel & Light and at B & O Railroad in Garrett.

He was a proud member of the Garrett Eagles and enjoyed hunting, shoveling snow and being around his closest friends.

No services are scheduled, but a memorial will be held May 27 at 3 p.m. at the home of Eleisha Morris, 0159 C.R. 60 in LaOtto.

E. Ialeene Theisen

EDGERTON, Ohio — E. Ialeene Theisen, 99, died Monday, December 6, 2010, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Private interment took place in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton. A graves side service will take place on Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Memorials are requested to a charity of the donor's choice.

Richard Lockhart

ASHLEY — Richard Dale "Dick" Lockhart, 89, of Ashley, died Saturday, May 21, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mr. Lockhart spent his life working as a dairy farmer in DeKalb County, retiring in 1994. He was extremely proud of being a farmer and took great pride in his farm and the grounds that surround.

He was a member, deacon, trustee and served on the board of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in Waterloo.

Mr. Lockhart

Dick loved to travel, especially on his motorcycle, even to the point that he took his honeymoon riding his motorcycle. He also loved shooting pool.

He was born April 19, 1922, in Ashley, to Ralph and Hazel (Albright) Lockhart.

He married Velma Marie Kniss on June 9, 1950. She passed away May 23, 1971. He then married Lois "Jean" Weirick on June 5, 1990, in Auburn. She survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are three children and their spouses, Kathy Orwig of Ashley, Alan and Brenda Lockhart of Ashley, and Linda and Jerry Engstrand of Hopkinton, New Hampshire; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Shelley and Ken Meyer of Kendallville; 13 grandchildren and spouses, Lori and Bob Benincasa, Holly Orwig, Emily Grigsby, Dan and Stacey Lockhart, Stacy Lockhart, Alex Essig, Ashley Essig, Trevor and Toni Gerring, Kristin and Josh Creager, Faith Meyer, April Meyer, Adam and Tiffany Meyer, and Sarah and Anthony Scheurich; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, a son, Terry Lockhart who passed away May 17, 2011, two grandsons, Jason Lockhart and Benjamin Lockhart, and two sisters, Marjorie Forrest and Barbara Peters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Cedar Lake Church of Christ, 1492 C.R. 27 Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday prior to the service. Officiating will be Steve Evans. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will also be from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Inlow

WATERLOO — Roger D. Inlow, 78, of Waterloo, died Saturday, May 21, 2011, at St. Joe Hospital in Fort Wayne surrounded by his family.

He was born May 31, 1932, in DeKalb County to Oren E. and Emma J. Inlow.

He worked in the maintenance department for 37 years at Dana Corporation in Auburn, retiring in 1996. He also worked at International Harvester and the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Inlow

He bowled in the Auburn Bowling Leagues and enjoyed having coffee at Richards Restaurant.

Roger married Joan Klink on August 9, 1970, in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by three sons and six daughters, Terry (Deb) Inlow of Albion, Rick Inlow of Ashley, Chris White of California, Christy Davis of Fort Wayne, Pam (Tom) Tharp of Idaho, Cheryl (Jim) Gilbert of Corunna, Teresa McMaken of Butler, Sandy (Paul) Price of Florida, and April (Theresa Onderko) White of Manchester; 16 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren; and two brothers and a sister, Loren Inlow of Fort Wayne, Paul Inlow of Hicksville and Becky Grobis of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson, Ryan Gilbert, five brothers and five sisters.

There will be no services conducted.

The family invites anyone to share a cup of coffee on "Roger" at Richards Restaurant in Auburn between 2 and 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

They also ask that any memorials be given in Roger's name to the Northeast Indiana Burn Council, attention Sheryl Mourey, Fort Wayne Burn Unit, 800 Broadway, Suite 315, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting the family with arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Roger Strite

WATERLOO — Roger H. Strite, 53, of Waterloo, died Saturday, May 21, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Strite served in the U.S. Marine Reserves.

He was a member of the Mile Corner Gun League in Garrett.

He was born March 27, 1958, in Angola.

He married Diana S. Garman on March 31, 1979, in Waterloo and she survives.

Surviving are his mother, Agnes (Wooster) Strite of Waterloo; father, Harlin Strite of Florida; two sons, Jeremy Strite of Waterloo and Andrew Strite of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Gerardo Santoyo of Angola; two grandchildren; and three sisters and brothers-in-law, Ginger and Larry Wilks of Auburn, Jenny and Robert Downam of Stroh, and Connie and Michael Gerardot of Waterloo.

A memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Valarie Kline officiating.

Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Diana Strite.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
MAY 2011 Auburn, Indiana
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Proud to be a nurse

Yarlot started career at DeKalb Memorial

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — Ruth Yarlot was the consummate caregiver with a love of nature and a knack for adventure.

She died Feb. 11 at the age of 96 at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Raised in DeKalb County, Yarlot was the youngest of five children. Her mother passed away when Yarlot was 8, said her daughter, Susan Crowl. Yarlot was raised by her father and her older sisters, and graduated from Waterloo High School in 1932.

After working for a year as a nanny, Yarlot entered St. Joseph Nursing School, Crowl said. She graduated in 1936.

"She was so proud to have her nursing degree," daughter Alice Swift said. "When we'd get sick, she was so patient and compassionate. Nursing was the love of her life."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ruth Yarlot and her husband, Loren. Mrs. Yarlot was a nurse dedicated to caring for others, who worked one of the first shifts at DeKalb Memorial Hospital when it opened in 1964.

In 1941, Yarlot married her husband, Loren, and the two moved to San Francisco, Calif., where Mr. Yarlot was stationed during World War II. After the war ended, the couple moved to Fort Wayne, where Mrs. Yarlot worked as a nurse for a local doctor.

Crowl said her mother kept diaries from 1938 to 2009, documenting everything about her life from the weather to her daily happenings. Crowl said she found the invoice from her own birth saved away, along with numerous crates filled with old dance programs, scrapbooks and her parents' old love letters.

The Yarlots raised three children, and Swift said her mother always was involved in her all of their lives, serving as a member of the Hamilton PTA, helping with years of 4-H and as a band parent. She passed on a love of nature to each of her children. But above all, Swift said, her mother was adamant that her children should go to college.

"I think because of her circumstances growing up, she wanted us to all have an education," Swift said. Mark Yarlot is a geologist in California, and both Crowl and Swift made their careers as teachers.

Eventually the family moved back to DeKalb County because they missed farming and country living, Crowl said. It was where Mrs. Yarlot loved to be, surrounded by the farm and nature.

"She would spend hours out in the garden, taking care of her garden, flower beds and the pond," Crowl said. She often went outside in the freezing Indiana winters to feed the birds because she was worried about them. Her mother even had a pet skunk named Rosie, Swift said.

Yarlot returned to nursing in the 1960s, but she worked second or third shift so she could be at home with her young son, Mark, when he needed her, Crowl said.

Soon after, she took a job at the new DeKalb Memorial Hospital. Her mother was very proud to tell people she worked one of the first shifts in the hospital, Crowl said. The hospital was her mother's home for the next 20 years, until she retired at age 70.

"To this day, people approach us and say what a good, compassionate nurse she was," Swift said.

But, Mark Yarlot added, his mother knew how to have fun. He said his mom enjoyed traveling the world, playing cards, dancing and watching basketball. And, she was never too old for fun, even recently enjoying a ride on her grandson's motorcycle.

"The most surprising memory ... was (when she) hopped on Chuck's motorcycle when she was well into her 90s," he said.

Ronald Ungerger

AVILLA — Ronald G. Ungerer, 62, of Avilla died unexpectedly Friday, May 20, 2011, at 10:23 p.m. in his residence.

He was President of R&D Wire which started in June of 1990, in LaOtto.

Mr. Ungerger

Ron enjoyed gardening, camping, and was an avid NASCAR fan, but he most enjoyed spending time with family and his grandchildren.

He was born Feb. 4, 1949, in Fort Wayne, to Raymond and Violet (Kiser) Ungerer. On February 12, 1972, in Bryan, Ohio, he married Karen L. Parson.

Surviving are his wife, Karen L. Ungerer of Avilla; two daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie and Adam Young of Millersburg and Jaime and John Hamman of Hudson; six grandchildren, Leanne Young, Carl Young, Sarah Young, Mariah Hamman, Derek Hamman, and Andrew Hamman; his father, Raymond Ungerer of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Carey Ungerer of Churubusco and Ed and Judy Ungerer of Auburn; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Leo and Joan Herman of Bryan, Ohio; two sisters-in-law, Cathy and Ron Fovargue of Edmond, Oklahoma and Nancy and Brent Davis of New Hudson, Michigan; a brother-in-law, Richard and Lisa Parson of Bay City, Michigan; and several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Violet Ungerer, on July 1, 2010, and a daughter, Brenda Ungerer.

Funeral services will be Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 11 a.m. in the Huntertown United Methodist Church, 16021 Lima Road, Huntertown, with Pastor Greg Hiatt officiating. Burial will be in Hopewell Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren. Active pallbearers will be Brent Davis, Ron Fovargue, Richard Parson, Adam Young, John Hamman, and Steve Prezbindowski.

Calling is Wednesday, May 25, 2011, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, and one hour prior to services at the church on Thursday.

Preferred memorials are to the Huntertown United Methodist Church.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Rebecca Obendorf

GARRETT — Rebecca E. "Becky" Obendorf, 88, of Garrett, died on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home.

She was born Oct. 12, 1922, in Garrett to Christopher and Sylvia (Schlotterback) Marti.

She was married to Guy Obendorf and died in 1964. Becky was a machinist at Electric Motors and Specialties for 42 years, retiring in 1993.

She also was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

Becky is survived by a daughter, Renee Cuff of Fort Wayne; and two granddaughters, Kelly Wickerham of Fort Wayne and Kim Wickerham of St. Joe.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by six brothers; Jacob, William, Harold, Alfred, Ottis and Arthur and three sisters; Clarabelle, Mary and Ardith.

A Celebration of Life memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. The Rev. David Mix will officiate.

Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Health Care.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Roger Inlow

WATERLOO — Roger D. Inlow, 78, of Waterloo, died Saturday, May 21, 2011, at St. Joe Hospital in Fort Wayne surrounded by his family.

He was born May 31, 1932, in DeKalb County to Oren E. and Emma J. Inlow.

Mr. Inlow

He worked in the maintenance department for 37 years at Dana Corporation in Auburn, retiring in 1996. He also worked at International Harvester and the U.S. Postal Service.

He bowled in the Auburn Bowling Leagues and enjoyed having coffee at Richards Restaurant.

Roger married Joan Klink on August 9, 1970, in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by three sons and six daughters, Terry (Deb) Inlow of Albion, Rick Inlow of Ashley, Chris White of California, Christy Davis of Fort Wayne, Pam (Tom) Tharp of Idaho, Cheryl (Jim) Gilbert of Corunna, Teresa McMaken of Butler, Sandy (Paul) Price of Florida, and April (Theresa Onderko) White of Manchester; 16 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren; and two brothers and a sister, Loren Inlow of Fort Wayne, Paul Inlow of Hicksville and Becky Grobis of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson, Ryan Gilbert, five brothers and five sisters.

There will be no services conducted.

The family invites anyone to share a cup of coffee on "Roger" at Richards Restaurant in Auburn between 2 and 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

They also ask that any memorials be given in Roger's name to the Northeast Indiana Burn Council, attention Sheryl Mourey, Fort Wayne Burn Unit, 800 Broadway, Suite 315, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting the family with arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Maysa Guinn

AUBURN — Maysa Jean Guinn, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, May 22, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Guinn worked as an abstractor for the Auburn Abstract & Title Co. in Auburn.

Mrs. Guinn

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born on June 5, 1924, in Beulah, Mich., to Evan and Nida (Creamer) Link.

She married Roy Allen Guinn on August 17, 1946, in Auburn, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Steven A. Guinn of Hudson, and Daniel E. and Sally Guinn of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren and their spouses, Kimberly and Beau Krebs of Angola, Heather and Cole Krebs of Auburn, Timothy Guinn of Hudson, Samantha Guinn of Fort Wayne, and Charles "Charlie" Guinn of Fort Wayne; six great-grandchildren, Caitlin Krebs, Jay Krebs, Trenten Krebs, Jett Krebs, Maysa Krebs, and Kollin Krebs; and a sister and brother-in-law, Wilma and Ralph Carper of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and four brothers, Arnold Link, Curtis Link, Herschel "Dutch" Link and Milo Link.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Kenneth Nodine

GARRETT — Kenneth Nodine, 62, of Garrett died at 7:10 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Nodine

He was born Oct. 9, 1948, in Garrett.

Kenneth is survived by his four sons: Troy (Stephanie) Nodine of St. Mary's, Ohio, William (Lisa) Nodine of Garrett, Travis (Rhonda) Nodine of Garrett, and Jeremy Nodine of Fort Wayne; his three brothers, Robert Nodine, Eugene Nodine and Richard Nodine; and three sisters, Carolyn Zeider, Janet Bowers and Sandy Richmond.

He is also survived by five grandchildren: Kristine Nodine of Garrett; Taylor Nodine of Garrett; Karensa Nodine of Churubusco; Shayna Nodine of Auburn; and Zane Nodine of Garrett.

Also surviving are several people very special to Kenneth, Alan (Eleisha) Goble, Dexter Sexton, Sam (Lisa) Hicks, David (Sue) Daniels, and Kenny and MaryJane Clemons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lafayette and Mildred (Streb) Nodine; two sisters, Barbara Isham and Kathleen Kurtz; and his best friend, David Pippenger.

Kenneth worked at the former Northern Indiana Fuel & Light and at B & O Railroad and Strawberry's Place in Garrett.

He was a proud member of the Garrett Eagles and enjoyed hunting, shoveling snow and being around his closest friends.

No services are scheduled, but a memorial will be held May 27 at 3 p.m. at the home of Eleisha Morris, 0159 C.R. 60 in LaOtto.

Gary Stackhouse

ASHLEY — Gary L. Stackhouse, 58, of Ashley died Sunday, May 22, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stackhouse worked for the Newnam Foundry in Kendallville and then for the Auburn Foundry in Auburn, retiring in 1999.

He was born June 19, 1952, in Kendallville, to Dallas B. and June (Hamlin) Stackhouse. His father preceded him in death and his mother survives in Kendallville.

He married Tina M. (Fraley) Vian on March 4, 2004, in Angola, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Gus Stackhouse of Auburn, Jake Stackhouse of Weehawken, N. J., Corey Vian of Lafayette, and Jordan and Brandy Stackhouse of Corunna; a daughter, Megan Vian of Ashley; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dale L. Stackhouse of Wolcottville, Kevin D. and Barb Stackhouse of Mesa, Ariz., and Bruce E. and Kriss Stackhouse of Corunna.

He is preceded in death by his father and a brother, Bryon K. Stackhouse.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday with calling from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Vance Hamlin officiating.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Ashley Baseball and Softball Association, 2357 C.R. 4, Ashley, IN 46705.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Rachel Grogg

WATERLOO — Rachel L. Grogg, 91 died Monday May 23, 2011 at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was born May 31, 1919, in Waterloo to Walter C. and Eva (Souder) Smith.

She was a homemaker and worked beside her husband on their family farm.

She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ where she taught Sunday school and worked with different women's groups. She was a member of the Home Demonstration Club.

Rachel married Paul D. Grogg on May 10, 1941, in Waterloo and he passed away October 6, 1989.

She is survived by a daughter and two sons, Cathy S. (Robert) Walker of Waterloo, Bruce D. (Lorie) Grogg of Phoenix, Ariz., and John P. (Kathy) Grogg of Waterloo; a daughter-in-law, Terri Grogg of Auburn; a sister, Lusina McNall of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren, Lori (Mark) Shaneyfelt, Danielle (Todd) Sullivan, Joy (Jeremy) Hammer, Adam Walker, Ben (Jill) Grogg, Jon (Reasa) Grogg, Alison (Tony) Forsythe, Melissa (Brooks Sexton) Grogg, Shelley Grogg; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a son, Michael W. Grogg; and a brother, Leonard Smith.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, May 27, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is from 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Team Expansion (her grandson's mission organization).

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Gerald Brown

ANGOLA — Gerald Carlton Brown, 91, of Angola died Monday, May 23, 2011, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Brown had retired as a design engineer from Angola Wire Products.

He was a member of the Angola United Methodist Church in Angola.

He was born February 11, 1920, in Jackson Township, Steuben County, Ind., to Robert James and Ethel M. (Velie) Brown. They preceded him in death. He married Darlene Dean on May 30, 1959. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are four daughters, Carol Anne (Asa Clifford) Harvey, Kokomo, Ind., Barbara Jane (John) Tatman, Whiteland, Ind., Cynthia Jo (Terry) Butz, Pleasant Lake, Ind., and Carol Ann (Wayne) Klink, Ashley, Ind.; a brother, Darrell (Donna) Brown, Tekonsha, Mich.; a sister, Marjorie Roush, Angola, Ind.; nine grandchildren, Elizabeth (Joseph) Hlebasko, Deborah (Curtis) Copeland, Matthew (Holly) Harvey, Stephanie (Joel) Houseman, Karissa Tatman, Zachary (Sandra) Butz, Abby Butz (Ryan Smith), Kriss (Bruce) Stackhouse and Kimberly (Mike) Smith; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Robert Donald Brown, and a granddaughter, Kendra Jo Tatman.

Memorial services will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Pastor Stephen "Sam" Hoffman officiating.

Burial will be in Flint Cemetery in Steuben County, Ind.

Visitation will be from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, at the funeral home.

Memorials are to The Olde York Church, 8740 E. 300 N., Fremont, IN 46737.

Sign a guest book at www.weichtfh.com.

Ladonna Schiffli

WATERLOO — Ladonna M. Schiffli, 68, of Waterloo died Monday, May 23, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born in Defiance, Ohio, on May 29, 1942, to Charles and Rachel (Taylor) Morgan.

She was a homemaker and a stay at home mom raising five children.

She was a member of St. Michaels Catholic Church of Waterloo.

Ladonna married Robert Schiffli on July 7, 1962, in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and he survives.

She is also survived by five children, Michael J. Schiffli of Cartersville, Ga., Laura M. (Brian) Hendrick of Roanoke, Nicholas D. (Theresa) Schiffli of LaGrange, Matthew J. (Bethany) Schiffli of Fort Wayne, and Joseph A. Schiffli of Waterloo; and eight grandchildren, Rebecca A. (Jerod) Counts, Jonathon J. Burnett, Luke D. Schiffli, Katherine A. Schiffli, Jacob A. Schiffli, Cole T. Schiffli, Brady R. Schiffli and Emma R. Schiffli.

She was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers and two sisters.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, May 28, 2011, at 11 a.m. in St. Michaels Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, Ind., with Father David Carkenord officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church. A Rosary will be recited at 10:40 a.m., followed by the funeral Mass at 11 a.m.

The family asks that no flowers be sent and any memorials given in Ladonna's name be given to a charity of the donor's choosing.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Dale Fee

LANSING, Mich. — Dale W. Fee, 82, of Lansing, Mich., died May 11, 2011.

He was born Aug. 11, 1928, in Garrett to John A. and Mabel (Houlton) Fee.

Mr. Fee

Mr. Fee served in the U.S. Army and later worked for Oldsmobile, from which he retired in 1993 after 30 years of service. He also worked as a U.A.W. worker's compensation representative.

He was a member of the Eagles Lodge 1039, and U.A.W. 652.

Surviving are his wife of 28 years, Annie; a son, Jeffrey (Julie) Fee of Richmond, Va.; five daughters, Vicki (Mike) Monroe and Diane, Susan, Debbie and Lisa, all of Michigan; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert (Coleen) Fee of Waterloo; and three sisters, Maxine Schlagenhauser of Auburn, Margaret (Ralph) Ford of Auburn and Twyla Hutsell of Naples, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, David; three brothers, John L. Fee, Keith Fee and William Fee; and a sister, Ida Mae Frain.

Memorial services took place May 17 at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Diamondale, Mich.

Donelda Hook

BUTLER — Donelda M. Hook, 82, formerly of Butler, died Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthianna, Ky.

Mrs. Hook had worked in the housekeeping department of the Michigan State Hospital in Coldwater.

She was born on April 6, 1929, in Bryan Ohio to Clyde and Mary (Roth) Cox. She married William C. Hook on Sept. 2, 1948, in Joliet, Ill. He preceded in death on Sept. 20, 2000.

Surviving are two daughters, Ginger Hafer of Cynthianna, Ky., and Linda Wahl of Charlotte, N.C.; a brother, Clyde (Helen) Cox of Bradenton, Fla.; and seven grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Wyona Converse, Vivian Chick and Frances Culbertson; and three infant brothers.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at H. E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with calling from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton, Ohio.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Rev. Donald Lindemuth

CROMWELL — Reverend Donald G. "Pops" Lindemuth, 60, of Cromwell died Wednesday May 25, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church.

He was born May 29, 1950 in Ligonier.

Surviving are his children, Rhonda Harden of Corunna, Tina Winebrenner of Angola, Carl Winebrenner of Roberts, Ill., Akita Pepper of Huntington and Amber Cowles of Corunna; and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Robert and Ronald Lindemuth. Private family services will be held.

Memorials are to American Legion Post, 243 100 S. Main St., Ligonier, IN 46767. Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Darrell Hewitt

WATERLOO — Darrell Duane Hewitt, 47, of Waterloo died Friday, May 27, 2011 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Jan. 23, 1964, in North Kingston, R.I. His father Roger Hewitt is deceased. His mother Charlene (Farrell) Walla survives in Auburn and his stepmother survives in Fort Wayne.

He coached youth league softball for a number of years in Auburn, Waterloo and Jackson Township.

He married Janice E. "Jenny" Lowery on March 30, 1985, in Michigan. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son, Jessica Hewitt of Auburn, Jenna Hewitt of Auburn and Jason Hewitt of Waterloo; a granddaughter, Emma Feller; a sister, Chris Beck of Bluffton; three brothers, Greg Hewitt of Auburn, Steve (Chris) Hewitt of Coco, Fla., and Jeff Hewitt of Ashley; a brother-in-law, Jeff Dyke of Andrews; and his stepmother, Po Hewitt, of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his father and a brother-in-law, Jake Lowery.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Monday, May 30, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St,, Auburn, Ind., with the Rev. David Mathews officiating.

Calling will be from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Julian Combs

AUBURN — Julian Marie "Julie" Combs, 52, died Friday, May 27, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School and the New River Community College.

Ms. Combs worked as a nurses' aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, for Magnavox in Auburn, as a nurses' aide for Dr. Peter F. Kelly and the Radford Hospital in Radford, Virginia, and then for Dr. Duncan as an optician assistant in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of the YMCA of Auburn and volunteered at the Parkview Hospital ICU Progressive Unit in Fort Wayne and at the Radford Hospital in Radford, Virginia.

She was born Nov. 7, 1958, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, Louise (Jansen) and Glenn Todd of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Edward "TJ" and Emily Combs of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Darwin Wayne "Chipper" Combs of Beckley, West Virginia; her fiance, Bill White of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Cathy Raymond of Auburn, and Duane and Connie Todd of Auburn; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Michelle M. Massey of Auburn, Lisa and Steve Woods of Auburn, and Pamela and Jim Hablawetz of Hicksville, Ohio; one grandchild; and seven step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Irvan Raymond; a daughter, Tammy McBride; and one grandchild.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Calling will be from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn or the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Marilyn Striggle

AUBURN — Marilyn "Sue" Striggle, 79, of Auburn died Friday, May 27, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. L. Joe Fichtner officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery in Churubusco.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Linda Bassett

AUBURN — Linda J. Bassett, 74, died Friday, May 27, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born July 3, 1936, in Salem Center to Reuel and Evelyn (Shufelt) Ransburg.

Linda has owned and operated Bassett Office Furniture and Supply in Auburn since 1973.

She was very active and loved traveling, her grandchildren, her kids, reading, watching Jeopardy and Home Extension activities.

She was a member of St. Johns United Church of Christ of Ashley/Hudson. She was active in the church, belonging to its St. Johns Guild and Northeast Indiana Association for Women.

Linda was a volunteer for DeKalb Hospice. She was a member and held various offices in Chatter Belles Home Extension Club, Indiana Extension Homemaker, ACWW and NVON.

She was honored with awards as DeKalb County Homemaker of the Year, Purdue Friend of Extension and DeKalb Friend of Extension.

Linda married Virgil Bassett on November 11, 1956, in St. Johns United Church of Christ and he died May 21, 1993.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter, Jeff (Kathy) Bassett of Auburn, David (Carrie) Bassett of Auburn and Patti (Scott) Warstler of Garrett; a brother, Van (Helen) Ransburg of Hudson; six grandchildren, Ashlee (Paul) Fiandaca, Luke Bassett, Jasper Bassett, Ethan Bassett, Michael Warstler, and Matthew Warstler; and two great-grandchildren, Gaige and Sophia Fiandaca.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and twin daughters, Nancy and Diane.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, May 30, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor John Kabes and Pastor Kim Nusbaum officiating. Burial will be in Mt Zion Cemetery, Golden Lake.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to St Johns United Church of Christ or DeKalb County Extension Homemakers Scholarship Fund. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Bonnie Grawcock

AUBURN — Bonnie R. Grawcock, 91 of Auburn and formerly of LaOtto,died at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, 2011, at Chandler House in Kendallville.

Mrs. Grawcock

Mrs. Grawcock was a teacher's aide at Alliance Industries for 23 years, retiring in 1980.

She was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in LaOtto and was a member of the ladies aide at the church. She was also a member of the Swanette Homemaker's Club.

She was born Sept.3, 1919, in Ada, Minn., to Charles M. and Ruth (Vraa) Gorrell. She married Albert J. Grawcock on Nov. 8, 1941 in LaOtto and he survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are three sons, Jim (Kathy) Grawcock of LaOtto, John (Betty) Grawcock of Ligonier, and Leslie (Renee) Grawcock of Auburn; a daughter, Ruthann (Mike) Hervey of Wasilla, Alaska; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Bob Gorrell.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice or Emmanuel Lutheran Church in LaOtto.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Joan Trenanry Cook (2002) and Lorin E. Cook (2011)

Lorin Cook
Joan Cook

AUBURN — A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 4, 2011, for Lorin E. Cook and Joan Trenary Cook.

Lorin and Joan were married June 4, 1949, and moved to Ontario, Canada, in July 1964.

Their union saw six children fill the family tree.

Please join with us to remember and celebrate Joan and Lorin on June 4 at the Italian Grill, 227 N. Duesenberg Drive, Auburn, Ind., from noon to 3 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

Judy, Larry, Cheryl, Brooks, Nathan and Andy

Dennis Thain

FORT WAYNE — Dennis R. Thain, 68, of Fort Wayne, died May 24, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Nov. 12, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Robert W. and Evelyn (Green) Thain.

Mr. Thain was a retired truck driver for a hardwood lumber yard. He graduated from New Haven High School. He was an avid antique light collector, enjoyed drag racing and working on cars. He formerly lived in Arizona and enjoyed the Western states and mountains.

Mr. Thain

Survivors include his companion: Nancy Thain of Angola; two sons: Dennis Thain of Florida and Robert Thain of Butler; two step-daughters: Valerie and John Zenizo of Vail, Ariz. and Dawn and Don Saak of Bountiful, Utah; his mother: Evelyn Thain of Fort Wayne; two brothers: Kelvin and Irene Thain of Columbia City and Lyle Thain of Fort Wayne; and one sister: Arlene and Mike Koester.

He was preceded in death by his father.

There will be no visitation and no funeral services.

Memorials may be made to Rise, Inc.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com and to thainnl@aol.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Beams Funeral Home of Fremont, 495-2915.

Julian Combs

AUBURN — Julian Marie "Julie" Combs, 52, died Friday, May 27, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School and the New River Community College.

Ms. Combs

Ms. Combs worked as a nurses' aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, for Magnavox in Auburn, as a nurses' aide for Dr. Peter F. Kelly and the Radford Hospital in Radford, Virginia, and then for Dr. Duncan as an optician assistant in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of the YMCA of Auburn and volunteered at the Parkview Hospital ICU Progressive Unit in Fort Wayne and at the Radford Hospital in Radford, Virginia.

She was born Nov. 7, 1958, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, Louise (Jansen) and Glenn Todd of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Edward "TJ" and Emily Combs of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Darwin Wayne "Chipper" Combs of Beckley, West Virginia; her fiance, Bill White of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Cathy Raymond of Auburn, and Duane and Connie Todd of Auburn; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Michelle M. Massey of Auburn, Lisa and Steve Woods of Auburn, and Pamela and Jim Hablawetz of Hicksville, Ohio; one grandchild; and seven step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Irvan Raymond; a daughter, Tammy McBride; and one grandchild.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Calling will be from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn or the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Mary Robison

BUTLER — Mary Robison, 87, died Friday at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

There are no services or calling scheduled at this time. Arrangements are being handled by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

STAR
MAY 29 2011 Auburn, Indiana

'She was such a beautiful person'

Store owner known for her energy, smiles

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — When her granddaughter KrisTena Cartwright got married, Beth Reiske sent her husband a T-shirt with the words "Don't Worry Be Happy" on the front.

"Roe (as her family liked to call her) was always smiling, laughing and having fun. Her energy was contagious," recalled Jan Harkner-Abbs.

Children of the 1950s-1970s in Kendallville who had a new bicycle or dreamed of having a new bicycle probably remember her energy and smiles, too, when they entered the Western Auto Store on South Main Street. Mrs. Reiske and her husband, Bill, co-owned and managed the popular store in the downtown business district. They sold auto parts, tires and had a Spiegel catalog center, but it was the place to go to see the newest Schwinn, J.C. Higgins Flightliner and Western Flyer bicycles.

The store had rows and rows of new bikes and bicycle parts. It was like a new auto dealership for kids, and the friendly owners were Bill and Beth Reiske.

"That store was downtown Kendallville," recalled daughter Karen Henschen. It was the Walmart of the 1950s.

Beth Romaine Reiske, 88, of Kendallville passed away on May 23, 2011. Her husband of nearly 57 years, William S. Reiske, preceded her in death on Jan. 12, 2000.

Their children, Sue Abbs, James Reiske and Karen Henschen, recalled that even though their parents' store sold the popular Schwinn Flyer bikes, they never owned a new one themselves. Their father would fix up a used one and say it was good enough, and their mother agreed. She was the store's bookkeeper, too.

Retail stores filled most of the buildings in downtown Kendallville in the 1950s-1970s, and every storefront had window displays to entice customers, especially on holidays.

"Mom designed all the Western Auto window displays, and most people said they were some of the best ones in town," recalled Sue Abbs.

Barb Mulholland, former Kendallville resident and executive director of the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, often shopped at the Western Auto Store. She remembers the time she purchased a pedal tractor and trailer for her son for Christmas but didn't have any place at her house to store it or hide it until Christmas.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Beth and Bill Reiske stand in the Western Auto store they owned and managed in downtown Kendallville for 28 years in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s.

"Beth said, 'Leave it here, and pick it up whenever you want,'" said Mulholland. She had planned to pick it up Christmas Eve but forgot. Mrs. Reiske called to remind her, because she knew it was a Christmas gift.

"She was always looking out for others. She was such a beautiful person," Mulholland said.

The Reiske and Abbs families became very close over the years. Sue Reiske married Scott Abbs, and Beth Reiske and Jane Abbs, the Abbs' family matriarch, became close friends.

Jim Abbs, Sue's brother-in-law, recalled the time he met with Bill and Beth Reiske to prepare their will. It was in 1992, and Abbs was a lawyer in the Emerick & Diggins law office in downtown Kendallville.

"I was going over things with them when the tornado hit downtown, went out to Fairview and Arvada Hills," he said. "After the storm, Beth said to me, 'Maybe we'd should sign this will right now.'"

Pastor Leon Pomeroy of Faith United Methodist Church, where Beth sang in the choir, said Beth loved her family and had faith in God. Her favorite hymn was "In the Garden."

Cartwright said her grandma had a big heart.

"Whenever you met up with her, you walked away with a lipstick print on your cheek. She loved to wear bright lipstick and with all the kisses on the cheek, she left her mark," she said.

Grandson Troy Abbs said his grandparents loved each other very much. They didn't like to be apart.

"You could see how much grandma missed grandpa," he said. "She taught me how you should treat your spouse, and you can see it in our family."

Her husband Bill's favorite song was "I Love You," and he sang it at family gatherings with Beth accompanying him on the piano. A recording of their duet was played at her funeral

Mrs. Reiske's favorite poem was "There Are Angels Among Us," and she would give copies of the poem to friends.

Cartwright said heaven will be little brighter now. "I'm sure grandma has the angels singing," she said.

Reiske is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Karen Dianne and Ronald Henschen of Kendallville and Sue Abbs of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, James William and Doreen Reiske of Carefree, Ariz.; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She is buried in Lake View Cemetery north of Kendallville.

Bertha Teegardin

KENDALLVILLE — Bertha Bernice Teegardin, age 89, formerly of Avilla and Kendallville, passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2011, at The Hearth at Windermere, Fishers, Indiana, where she resided the past 4 years.

Mrs. Teegardin

Mrs. Teegardin was born in Avilla, Indiana, on February 19, 1922, to the late Elmer and Ida May (Koons) Wells.

She married Cecil Ernest Teegardin on October 7, 1939, in Garrett, Indiana. Together they made their home on Bertha's family farm. He preceded her death on January 24, 1990.

Mrs. Teegardin was employed by the East Noble School Corporation and worked in the Avilla School cafeteria for 21 years before she retired in 1991.

Bertha's interests included cooking, gardening and spending time with her family, especially her granddaughter. She loved her family, always putting them first, and she often looked to help those in need.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Julie Ann and Scott Lentz of Fishers, Indiana; her granddaughter, Megan Lentz also of Fishers; many nieces and nephews; and her special caregiver, Tracy Baker.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Clarence and Dale Wells.

Visitation will be Friday, June 3, 2011, from 7-9 p.m at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 4, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Mr. Thomas Novy.

Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Avilla.

Preferred memorials may be made to The Hearth at Windermere, Keepsake Village, 9745 Olympia Drive, Fishers, IN 46037.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Bertha at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

William Elworthy Jr.

ASHLEY — William George Elworthy Jr., 86, died Nov. 17, 2010, in Ocala, Fla.

Mr. Elworthy retired from Bohn Aluminum in Butler.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., on Nov. 8, 1924, to William George Elworthy Sr. and Olivia (Zurbrugg) Elworthy.

Surviving are a son, Morgan Elworthy of Ocala, Fla.; two daughters, Carol (Johnnie) Wells of Waterloo and Angie (Brian) Johnson of Auburn; a brother, Richard Elworthy of Ashley; a sister, Phyliss Bush of New Hampshire; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Pleasant lake Cemetery.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, in charge of arrangements.

Larry Deardorf

AUBURN — Larry F. Deardorf, 74, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Deardorf

Mr. Deardorf worked at Auburn Gear in Auburn for 36 years, retiring March 31, 1999.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Germany from 1959-1961.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and a past member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn.

He was born March 31, 1937, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Forrest David and Nellie (Booth) Deardorf.

Surviving are his girlfriend, Pauline Livergood of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Larry W. and Cathy Deardorf of Fort Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Dave Dillinger of Auburn, and Cheryl and Larry Watson of Huntington; six grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; 13 stepgreat-grandchildren; a sister, Joan Overmyer of Hicksville, Ohio; and a stepsister-in-law, Mary Plum of Antwerp, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Richard Deardorf; and a stepbrother, Norman "Fred" Plum.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with D.V. Dillinger officiating. Calling will be from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service Friday. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn with military graveside services by the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will also be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Lost Creek Cemetery in Hicksville, Ohio.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR

2011 Auburn, Indiana

JUNE 1

John Boger

TOLEDO, Ohio — John L. Boger, 66, of Toledo, Ohio, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on May 26, 2011.

Mr. Boger

He died unexpectedly of heart-related causes at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo.

John was born on Dec. 18, 1944, to Harold A. and Dorothy (Mavis) Boger in Auburn. He graduated from Auburn High School in 1963 and also from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in business. He graduated from Rhema Bible Institute in Oklahoma and was an ordained minister. He served his country in the United States Air Force.

John married Jean Rollins in 1968.

He was employed at Dana Corp. in Auburn and in Colorado Springs. In his later years he worked at Sam's Photo Lab and was a manager at Walmart in Toledo.

John was a devout Christian. He read and studied the Bible every day. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Jean, and two children, William (Regina) Boger of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Regina Boger of Toledo; two stepchildren, Theresa (William) Hart of Fort Wayne and James (Julie) Sattison of Butler; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are three brothers and two sisters, Clarence Boger, Michael Boger and Larry Boger, all of Auburn, and Carolyn Trammel and Marlene Boger of Auburn; and one sister-in-law, Nancy Boger of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Franklin Boger, and a sister, Gloria Boger.

Toledo Crematorium Society is in charge of cremation.

A memorial service will take place June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with calling from 4 to 7 p.m.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Bertha Teegardin

KENDALLVILLE — Bertha Bernice Teegardin, age 89, formerly of Avilla and Kendallville, passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2011, at The Hearth at Windermere, Fishers, Indiana, where she resided the past 4 years.

Mrs. Teegardin

Mrs. Teegardin was born in Avilla, Indiana, on February 19, 1922, to the late Elmer and Ida May (Koons) Wells.

She married Cecil Ernest Teegardin on October 7, 1939, in Garrett, Indiana. Together they made their home on Bertha's family farm. He preceded her death on January 24, 1990.

Mrs. Teegardin was employed by the East Noble School Corporation and worked in the Avilla School cafeteria for 21 years before she retired in 1991.

Bertha's interests included cooking, gardening and spending time with her family, especially her granddaughter. She loved her family, always putting them first, and she often looked to help those in need.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Julie Ann and Scott Lentz of Fishers, Indiana; her granddaughter, Megan Lentz also of Fishers; a niece, Judy Helmkamp of Avilla; two nephews, Richard Wells of Kendallville and Jerry Wells of Westfield, Indiana; and her special caregiver, Tracy Baker.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Clarence and Dale Wells.

Visitation will be Friday, June 3, 2011, from 7-9 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Margie Watson

FREMONT — Margie Ruth Elam Watson of Fremont died Monday, May 30, 2011.

Mrs. Watson

Mrs. Watson and her husband Michael owned Arkwright's TV & Furniture stores in Angola, Fremont and Butler, Ind., Wauseon Ohio, Sturgis, Mich., and Colville and Chewelah, Wash. She had also worked at Hidden Valley Golf Course.

She graduated from Logan Senior High School in Logan, W.Va., and from Ivy Technical College in Fort Wayne with a degree in accounting and business management.

Mrs. Watson was born Dec. 1, 1942, in Hen Lawson, W. Va.

Surviving are her husband of 36 years Michael Edward Watson of Fremont; her children, Tony and Candi Hubbard of Angola, Tim Hubbard of Angola, Darrell and Sharon Watson of Fort Wayne, Anna and Jeff Hoyer of Angola, and Jackie and Rick Nance of Colville, Wash.; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Shirley Elam Damron of Dallas, Texas, Simms Edward Elam of Fort Wayne, Shelly Elam Conley of Wentzville, Mo., Larry William Elam of Fort Wayne, Carol Sue Elam Hernandez of Angola and Judy Elam Stevens of Angola.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy Jane Murray of Chicago; her father, William Garrett Elam of Fort Wayne; and her sibling, Kelly Monrol Elam.

A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Fremont Moose Lodge, 1665 E. S. R. 120, Fremont, followed by sharing of love and memories with family and friends until 3 p.m.

Graveside committal services will be at 4 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery in Garrett, Ind., corner of South Hamsher Street and West McHenry Street. Both services will be officiated by Pastor Sam Hoffman. Beams Funeral Home in Fremont is in charge of arrangements.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 4, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Mr. Thomas Novy.

Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Avilla.

Preferred memorials may be made to The Hearth at Windermere, Keepsake Village, 9745 Olympia Drive, Fishers, IN 46037.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Bertha at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Rachel Bair

AUBURN — Memorial services for Rachel Rebecca (Collins) Bair, 101, of Eaton Rapids, Mich., will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, at the Auburn Methodist Church in Auburn.

Mrs. Bair

Mrs. Bair died Sunday, April 24, 2011, in Lansing, Mich. She was a longtime Auburn resident.

She received her teaching degree from Manchester College and later graduated from the University of Saint Francis with a master's degree in education. She was a teacher for more than 30 years. She taught in Orland, Ind., and Auburn Ind., at the DeKalb County Central United School District, where she was a pioneer in special education.

She was born May 21, 1909, in White Pigeon, Mich., to Albert and Eva (Cleveland) Collins. She married Orval Bair on May 17, 1935. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters, Norma (Jerry) Hampton of Eaton Rapids and Natalie (Rev. C. Jarrell) Tyson of Mountain Home, Ark.; six grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Burdette Bair; sisters, Floiad Collins Carlisle, Lois Carlisle and Genelle Collins; and brothers Russell Collins, Cleveland "Eddie" Collins and Albertus Collins.

Graveside services were held April 27, 2011, at Circle Cemetery at Hudson, Ind.

Memorial contributions may be made to Auburn First United Methodist Church, 1203 E. 7th St. Auburn, IN 46706, or Easter Seals, 233 S. Wacker Dr. Chicago, IL 60606.

Margaret Lung

GARRETT — Margaret M. Lung, age 92, of Garrett, Ind., died Thursday, June 2, at 7:58 a.m. at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, Ind.

Margaret was born October 13, 1918, in Garrett, Ind., to Paul and Rosina Muzzillo and they preceded her in death. Margaret married Ford R. Lung on April 21, 1945, in Garrett. He preceded her in death in 1997.

Mrs. Lung

Margaret was a homemaker most of her life and was known in the community as a seamstress who could fix or mend any item that was brought to her for mending.

In her younger days she worked at her father's tavern, known to many as Martin's in downtown Garrett. She also worked at Electric Specialty Motors in the late 1960s.

Margaret was a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rosary Society, and Harvest House.

Surviving are Margaret's children: Robert (Mary) Lung of Auburn, Ind., Tina (Steve) Baker of Aiken, S.C., and Gerald (Trinita) Lung of Fort Wayne, Ind. Margaret also is survived by four grandchildren, Erin (Rodney) Edgar of Raleigh, N.C., Matthew (Christy) Lung of Spencerville, Ind., Jenna Lung of Denver, Colo., and Jared Lung of Fort Wayne. Four great-grandchildren, Jackson, Carter, Sophia and Annabelle Lung, all of Spencerville, Ind., also survive.

Two brothers, Norbert Muzzillo of Avilla and Bernard Muzzillo of Winona Lake, and a sister, Theresa Whitcraft of Winona Lake, also survive.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers and five sisters.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m., Sunday, June 5, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett and also from 9-10 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

A rosary service will take place at 8 p.m. Sunday evening at Thomas Funeral Home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, June 6, 2011, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett, Ind., with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett, Ind.

Preferred memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett, Masses or Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Delbert Washler

BUTLER — Delbert C. Washler, 86, a loving, devoted husband and father, went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at his home in rural Butler.

Mr. Washler was a truck farmer for most of his life selling produce to different stores in the area and at the South Side Market and also the Barr Street Market in Fort Wayne. He also was a truck driver for Roadway Trucking for 14 years, retiring in 1992.

Mr. Washler

He was a graduate of Butler High School, class of 1942.

He was a member, elder, and past Sunday school teacher at the Newville Church of Christ.

Mr. Washler also served on the DeKalb Eastern School Board.

He was born June 19, 1924, in Butler to Cleveland H. and Lillian B. (Weisz) Washler.

He married Marjorie Lott on April 9, 1944, in the Newville Church of Christ. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Judith Ann and Roger Moughler of Butler, Nancy and John Scoville of Butler, and Ann Washler of Chatsworth, Calif.; two sons, Scott Washler of Bryan, Ohio, and Brian Washler of Butler; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a daughter, Barbara Washler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Newville Church of Christ, 5107 C.R. 75A, Butler, with calling from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at the church. John Amstutz, Dale Rabineau and Brian Wilcox will be officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in Newville.

Calling will also be from 2-8 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to Lake James Christian Assembly, Milligan College, or DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Leroy Lawson

CHURUBUSCO — Leroy Lawson, 85, a resident of Churubusco, passed away at 3:45 a. m. on Thursday, June 2, 2011, at his home. He had been in failing health since April, and had returned home two days ago after being hospitalized.

Mr. Lawson

Mr. Lawson was born in Wolf Lake on May 11, 1926, a son of Homer and Blanche (Reed) Lawson, and spent his formative years in Noble County. As a young man he served with the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, and was a war hero. Following his military discharge, he was married to Ruth L. Schroeder on December 26, 1947. He was then engaged in farming, and was also a sheet metal worker.

He lived in South Milford for a portion of his adult life. He retired in 1988 as a construction foreman for Hagerman Construction, and was involved in many major building projects throughout Fort Wayne during his career. Following his retirement he enjoyed traveling throughout the continental United States and beyond.

He was a lifetime member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn and the Churubusco Veteran's of Foreign Wars Turtle Post 3846. He was also a member of the First Marine Division, and was proud to be a part of the Cherokee Nation Northern Tsalagi tribe in West Virginia.

His first wife preceded him in death on October 1, 1981. On November 13, 1983, he was married to Betty J. (Walker) McClure. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, Corrine Caulfield of Sarasota, Fla., Roy Lee (Cheri) Lawson of Auburn, Betty (Bill) Bridge of Kendallville, Gale (Michael) Kissinger of West, Texas, Joan (Creager) Smith of Fort Wayne, and Jay (Deb) Lawson of Kalamazoo, Mich; eight stepchildren, June Houlton of Auburn, Linda (Duane) Barth of Columbia City, Beverly (Joe) Gray of Archbold, Ohio, David McClure of Columbia City, Aaron (Cyndi) McClure of Churubusco, Wanda Van Horn of Auburn, and Carol Butler and Gloria Hughnett, both of Fort Wayne; and a sister Geneva Wagner of Kendallville. There are 30 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In addition to his parents and first wife, he was preceded in death by a stepson, Alden Ray "Sonny" McClure; a brother, Forrest Lawson; a sister, Odra Bailey; and by two grandsons, Jeremy Ray Hoffman and Jeffery Everage.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. on Monday, June 6, 2011, at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Timothy Grable, pastor of Sugar Grove Church of God officiating.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m., or one hour prior to the service.

Interment with military graveside rites will be in the Eel River Cemetery, south of Churubusco.

The family requests that memorials be directed to the Sonny McClure Scholarship Fund for Churubusco High School.

To leave an online condolence for the family in Mr. Lawson's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Edward Elkins

MOUNT VERNON, Ohio — Edward Orie Elkins, 80, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, died Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at Knox Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon.

Mr. Elkins was a retired truck driver.

He was born May 11, 1931, in Gilead, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Beatrice L. Elkins of Mount Vernon; a son, Dwayne Elkins of Auburn; two daughters, Dinah Speakman of Kendallville and Tammy Elkins of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Elkins

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ivory I. Wann.

Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Thomas Neddersen officiating.

Visitation will be two hours prior to the service.

Memorials are to the family.

To sign the online guest book or to send a sympathy note, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Delbert Washler

BUTLER — Delbert C. Washler, 86, a loving, devoted husband and father, went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at his home in rural Butler.

Mr. Washler was a truck farmer for most of his life selling produce to different stores in the area and at the South Side Market and also the Barr Street Market in Fort Wayne. He also was a truck driver for Roadway Trucking for 14 years, retiring in 1992.

Mr. Washler

He was a graduate of Butler High School, class of 1942.

He was a member, elder, and past Sunday school teacher at the Newville Church of Christ.

Mr. Washler also served on the DeKalb Eastern School Board.

He was born June 19, 1924, in Butler to Cleveland H. and Lillian B. (Weisz) Washler.

He married Marjorie Lott on April 9, 1944, in the Newville Church of Christ. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Judith Ann and Roger Moughler of Butler, Nancy and John Scoville of Butler, and Ann Washler of Chatsworth, Calif.; two sons, Scott Washler of Bryan, Ohio, and Brian Washler of Butler; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a daughter, Barbara Washler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Newville Church of Christ, 5107 C.R. 75A, Butler, with calling from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at the church. John Amstutz, Dale Rabineau and Brian Wilcox will be officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery in Newville.

Calling will also be from 2-8 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to Lake James Christian Assembly, Milligan College, or DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Delores Shull

AUBURN — Delores M. Shull, 83, of Auburn died Friday, June 3, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Shull worked as a nurses' aide for eight years at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn and then for Ball Brass and Aluminum in Auburn for seven years.

Mrs. Shull

She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn. She was also a member of the Women of the Moose in Auburn and held the degree of College of Regents, and the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Post 97 of Auburn.

She was born Oct. 15, 1927, in Richland Township in DeKalb County to Lawrence and Hilda LaVon (DeLong) Carper.

She married Roger A. Shull on June 15, 1946, in Auburn, and he died Jan. 15, 2008.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Roger Shull of Butler, and Ricky and Carolyn Shull of Auburn; three grandchildren; a sister, Wava Collins of Silver Lake; and a brother, Larry Carper of Arleta, Calif.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and a daughter, Pamela Jo Shull.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Indian Village Church of God, 602 Erie Pass, Auburn. The Rev. Raymond Warner will be officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorial may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
JUNE 5 2011 Auburn, Indiana

'He was an all-around guy'

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Gerald Dean "Jerry" Van Wagner was known for driving everywhere in his beloved brown-colored 1990-model pickup truck.

He loved the truck so much, that when he died, his wife, Fran, wanted to put his casket in the vehicle's bed to transport it to the cemetery.

Mr. Van Wagner, 80, of Angola, died May 12 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Jan. 6, 1931, in Angola to Dale and Wreathea (Fisher) Van Wagner. He married Frances Ann "Fran" Cimbal on Sept. 5, 1953, and she survives in Angola. The couple met because Fran was classmates with Jerry's sister. Fran and Jerry got together and stayed that way. The rest is history.

Mr. Van Wagner owned and operated Van Wagner's Meat Market and Slaughter House in Angola with Fran. "We had Van Wagner Meat Market north of town with a meat case. We wholesaled (meat). We had that two or three years and had our slaughterhouse for 34 years," Fran said. "We wholesaled to restaurants — beef and pork. We did lambs. We did beef and cattle and deer. There's many good memories. We took care of the farmers."

Fran said when the couple had their meat market, it was a place lakers pulled into and bought their meat on the way to cottages.

When the couple retired, they cut back on business with their meat case. But all those years — in marriage and business — she said, "(He) and I worked side by side. We were quite a team … We were compatible."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jerry Van Wagner loved hunting, socializing, fishing, playing cards, family, friends, and life in general.

Mr. Van Wagner liked fishing and hunting for deer and other game. Fran said her husband was also thoughtful. "He liked to hunt deer. When we were married, he was an avid coon hunter until 3 or 4 a.m. because that's when they came out. He would sell the pelts and buy me a practical Christmas present," she said.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran serving three years at a Minnesota base, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola, the Angola Lions Club, Angola American Legion Post 31, the Nightcrawlers, the Angola Moose Lodge, and the Village Kitchen Coffee Club. He was also director and past president of the Steuben County REMC and past president and director of the statewide REMC, something Fran said "he lived and loved REMC."

Fran said her husband once received the highest honor in Indiana — the Sagamore of the Wabash — for distinguished service to the state or to the governor.

Traveling was always important to Mr. Van Wagner and he enjoyed sharing new discoveries with Fran and his five daughters. "We saw 48 states with our children. We had motor homes and travel trailers. We had many friends. We just love people," Fran said.

In many of Mr. Van Wagner's activities, socializing was the focus. "He had cancer and (the Village Kitchen Coffee Club) was a lifesaver. He had a stroke and heart surgery," Fran said. "That was his thing to go up and sit with the boys. It was a therapy session."

The Van Wagners also were members of a 50-year pinochle and euchre club. "He loved to play cards and bowl. He was an all-around guy," Fran said.

Fran said her husband's Catholicism was important to him. One day, he up and decided to get baptised at St. Anthony's in 2002, she said in a "beautiful" ceremony, after conferring with the Rev. Fred Pasche, pastor.

Mr. Van Wagner's burial was in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Memorials may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and the Angola Lions Club.

Della Hutton

GARRETT — Della M. Hutton, 93, of Garrett died Friday, June 3, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Hutton was a homemaker.

She was a member and also served in the women's group at the Garrett United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority.

She was born June 16, 1917, in New Buffalo, Mich., to Hugh O. and Angie (Beck) Barnes. She married John V. Hutton on Dec. 6, 1936, in Michigan City. He died in November 1990.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John Craig and LuAnn Hutton of Garrett; a daughter-in-law, Judy Hutton of LaPorte; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Alice and Harold Roth of Michigan City, and Katherine Werner of Michigan City; and a sister-in-law, LaVerne Barnes of Michigan City.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a son, Danny Lee Hutton; four sisters, Peggy Gunn, Phyllis O'Brien, Shirley Kirkhahn, and Joan Millbeck; and three brothers, Robert Barnes, Richard Barnes and Paul Barnes.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Garrett United Methodist Church, 110 W. Houston St., Garrett, with the Rev. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will take place in Greenwood Cemetery in Michigan City at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the Garrett United Methodist Church.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit fellerand-clark.com.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Mareo Montoya

ANGOLA — Mareo Montoya, 32, died Friday, June 3, 2011 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born October 31, 1978 in Auburn, Indiana to Octavio, Sr. and Karen A. (Russell) Montoya. Mareo worked for Evan's Logistics in Butler, Indiana.

He was a loving and devoted father to his children and lived to see them smile. He was an inspiration to his family and others. We love you and will miss you so very much.

Surviving are his parents, Octavio, Sr. and Karen A. Montoya of Angola, Indiana; a daughter, Natalie Ann and son Logan James Shultz-Montoya of Auburn, Indiana; a sister and brother-in-law, Alicia D. and Carlos Navarro of Goshen, Ind.; a sister, Karen Montoya II of Mishawaka, Ind.; a brother, Octavio Montoya, Jr. of Angola, Ind.; maternal grandmother, Georgetta Cable of Angola, Ind.; a paternal grandmother, Priciliana Valenzuela of Chihuahua, Mexico; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 6, 2011 at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West St., Angola, Ind.

Services will be held Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Tom Wilson officiating. Burial will take place in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana.

To leave condolences or sign the guestbook, visit hejohnsonfh.com.

LaVerne Bowman

GARRETT — LaVerne Eileen Bowman, 90, of Garrett died Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Bowman worked as a cook for various restaurants around the area.

Mrs. Bowman

She was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla.

She was born on June 18, 1920, in Avilla.

She married Dale Bowman in Jan. of 1939, and he died in May of 1980.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Leonard Shaffer of Auburn; a sister, Delores Martin of Angola; three grandchildren and their spouses, Lori and Don McDaniel of Auburn, Terry and Lisa Shaffer of Auburn, and Karen McMaken of Butler; seven great grandchildren; Kendra McDaniel, Jama McDaniel, and Paige McDaniel, Marissa Jones; Johnny Logsdon, Carissa Logsdon and Terra McMaken; and a great-great grandson, Aiden Jones.

She was preceded in death by her father and stepmother, Walter and Frieda Wolf; her mother, Ruth (Gillian) Wolf; a son, Jerry Bowman; two daughters, Joan Bowman, and Janet Rowe; a sister, Lucille Keister; and two brothers, Lawrence Wolf, and Glenn Wolf.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo; with the Rev. Thomas Dumbar officiating. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Miller's Merry Manor activity fund.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Henry Shanyfelt

AUBURN — Henry E. Shanyfelt, 70, of Auburn died Sunday, June 5, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Shanyfelt worked at the Zollner Corp. in Fort Wayne, retiring after 34 years of service. He then worked at Wal-Mart in Auburn for 5 years.

Mr. Shanyfelt

He was born on July 13, 1940, in Fort Wayne, to Homer and Luella (Kerns) Shanyfelt.

He married Anna Rose Love on Dec. 9, 1959, and she passed away Nov. 19, 2010.

Surviving are five sons and daughters-in-law, Daniel E. and Sandra Shanyfelt of Garrett, Wayne Shanyfelt of Cleveland, Ohio, Mark Allen and Lori Shanyfelt of Auburn, Brian Neal Shanyfelt of Auburn, and Marty L. Thomas of Garrett; 13 grandchildren including Justin Heileman and Theresa Egly, both of Auburn; 16 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Beverly Dibble of Fort Wayne, and Barb Houser of St. Joe; and a brother, Herb Shanyfelt of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a daughter, Beth Ann Heileman; a grandson, Michael Allen Shanyfelt; seven sisters; and three brothers.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Shawn Browning officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Justin Heileman.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

John Boger

TOLEDO, Ohio — John L. Boger, 66, of Toledo, Ohio, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on May 26, 2011.

He died unexpectedly of heart-related causes at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo.

John was born on Dec. 18, 1944, to Harold A. and Dorothy (Mavis) Boger in Auburn. He graduated from Auburn High School in 1963 and also from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in business. He graduated from Rhema Bible Institute in Oklahoma and was an ordained minister. He served his country in the United States Air Force.

Mr. Boger

John married Jean Rollins in 1968.

He was employed at Dana Corp. in Auburn and in Colorado Springs. In his later years he worked at Sam's Photo Lab and was a manager at Walmart in Toledo.

John was a devout Christian. He read and studied the Bible every day. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Jean, and two children, William (Regina) Boger of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Regina Boger of Toledo; two stepchildren, Theresa (William) Hart of Fort Wayne and James (Julie) Sattison of Butler; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Also surviving are three brothers and two sisters, Clarence and Jane Boger, Michael and Carol Boger and Larry Boger, all of Auburn, and Carolyn Trammel and Marlene Boger of Auburn; and one sister-in-law, Nancy Boger of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Franklin Boger, and a sister, Gloria Boger.

Toledo Crematorium Society is in charge of cremation.

A memorial service will take place June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with calling from 4 to 7 p.m.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Donald Helmkamp

LAGRANGE — Donald F. Helmkamp, 87, of LaGrange died Sunday, June 5, 2011, at at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

Mr. Helmkamp and his wife, Ellen, moved to LaGrange in 1962 from Avilla. They owned and operated LaGrange County Dodge in LaGrange.

Mr. Helmkamp

Prior to moving to LaGrange, he was a farmer and milk hauler.

Mr. Helmkamp was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaGrange and the Knights of Columbus. He was active in St. Joseph's Parish during the building of the current church facility.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1924, in Cloverdale, Ohio, to Ben "Bernard" and Hilda (Kolhoff) Helmkamp. He married Ellen Kreienbrink on Feb. 23, 1946, in Kendallville. She survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are four sons, Thomas and Karen Helmkamp of LaGrange, Michael and Dee Helmkamp of Howe, Al and Kitty Helmkamp of LaGrange and Ed and Mary Kay Helmkamp of Wolcottville; two daughters, Ginny and Wes Hall of Sparks, Nev., and Lisa Helmkamp of Howe; three brothers, Gerald Helmkamp of Venice, Fla., Richard Helmkamp of Auburn, and Paul Helmkamp of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Mary Ley of Avilla and Joann Alfeld of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Bob and Jim Helmkamp.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange. A rosary service will be held immediately following visitation at 8 p.m.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, LaGrange, with the Father Andy Martinez officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, LaGrange.

Memorials may be given to the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund.

Billie King

FORT WAYNE — Billie Jean Walter King, 85, of Fort Wayne, died on Friday, June 3, 2011, 1:18 p.m., at Renaissance Village with the assistance of Southern Care Hospice.

Mrs. King

Born Oct. 13, 1925, in Auburn, she was a daughter of the late Wilbur E. Walter and Jennie E. (Sherwood) Walter.

She was a member of International Home Exchange; past president of Allen County Cancer Society; and a member of the Eastern Star.

She was a graduate of Auburn High School class of 1943.

In South Carolina, she was a member of Guardian Ad Litem; was a Victims Witness Advocate; a board member of Habitat for Humanity; and attended Parish Church of St. Helena (Episcopal).

Surviving are two daughters, Linda (Stephen) Sims and Letha Mason Chambers, both of Fort Wayne; two sons, Laune (Deborah) Mason of Fort Wayne and Larry Mason of Yulee, Fla.; a sister, Sue Ash of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren; as well as 12 nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Robert Walter and Joseph Walter; a sister, Patricia Diehl; and former husband, Gilbert R. Meyers.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 11, 2011, at Klaehn, Fahl & Melton Funeral Home, Wayne Street Chapel, with calling one hour prior.

Preferred memorials to Alzheimer's Foundation http://alz.org/index.asp or A Day Away Adult Daycare.

Online condolences to www.klaehnfahlmelton.com.

Della Caldwell

LARGO, Fla. — Della May Caldwell, age 75, of Largo, Florida, died Thursday, June 2, 2011, at her home.

Della was born May 27, 1936, in Noble County, Indiana, to Raymond and Velma Grieser.

She spent her formative years in Noble County. She graduated from Rome City High School with the class of 1954.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Caprice and Ted Vreeland of St. Petersburg, Fla., and a granddaughter, Olivia, at home. Also surviving are one brother and sister-in-law, Duane and Teresa Grieser of Corunna; four sisters and a brother-in-law, Dolores Barnes of Topeka, Kan., Gloria Sutton of Kendallville, Ires Grieser of Three Rivers, Mich., and Lora and Robert Schiffli of Waterloo; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Darold; as sister, Rayma; and an infant grandson.

Cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to: caprice.vreeland@gmail.com or dtgrieser@yahoo.com.

Larry Rathert

ANGOLA — Larry Fredrick Rathert, 65, of Angola died Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Rathert

Mr. Rathert had been a car salesman at Kool Chevrolet in Sturgis, Mich., Harold Chevrolet in Angola and Ben Davis Chevrolet in Auburn.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

He was born July 21, 1945, in Auburn to Laurence H. and Deloris J. (Madden) Rathert. He married Doshia P. Begley on July 17, 1976. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons, DJ Button of Topeka and Randy (Stacia) Rathert of Missoula, Mont.; three daughters, Candy (Jody) Sweeney of Litchfield, Mich., Paula (Dave) Keller of Edon, Ohio, and Christian (John) Tomerlin of Marcellus, Mich.; a brother, Jeff Rathert of Ohio; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Mike Rathert; and a sister, Sandy Winchell.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. today at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home with Bill Romans, minister, officiating.

Military graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich.

Sign a guestbook at www.weichthf.com.

Derwood Smith

FOLSOM, Calif. — Derwood "D.K." Smith, Col. USAF (Retired) died Saturday, June 4, 2011. D.K. passed away peacefully with his wife and youngest son by his side.

Mr. Smith

He was born May 21, 1919, on his parents' farm in Waterloo, Indiana, and even after traveling and living all over the world, Indiana remained "home."

He was a star athlete in track (high hurdles) and basketball in both high school and college at Tri-State University in Angola, Indiana.

In May 1941, D.K. joined the Army Air Corps and graduated flight school in January 1942 at Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas. As a member of the 31st Fighter Group, he served in England in June 1942 and flew Spitfires participating in many raids over Germany as well as combat support of operations in North Africa and Sicily.

After flying 126 missions, he returned to the United States in 1943 to marry his high school sweetheart, Geraldine Husselman. They were married for 67 years.

D. K. remained on active duty in the Air Force stationed at the Pentagon, England, post-war Germany, the Philippines, and many bases in the U.S. He retired after 30 years active duty to live in Sacramento where his love of automobiles lead him to a successful second career with Hubacher Cadillac.

One of his greatest pleasures was playing golf (12 handicap) with his buddies at local golf courses and road trips to the Bayonet Course at Fort Ord near Monterey.

D.K. and Geraldine moved to Folsom, California, in 1997 where they continued to enjoy life with family and friends. He is survived by his wife Geraldine; sons, Terry and Rob and their spouses; a daughter, Linda and her spouse; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a brother, Don E. Smith, of Waterloo, Indiana.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. at Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

Leola Hartman

WATERLOO — Leola B. Hartman, 104, died Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at Chandler House in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hartman

She was born in Pleasant Lake on November 8, 1906, to Charles and Bertha (Brand) Mountz and they have both passed on.

She graduated from Pleasant Lake High School in 1924.

Leola was the produce manager for 22 years at Sutton's Grocery in Waterloo.

She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

She married Paul K. Hartman on February 7, 1931, in Angola and he died February 22, 1945.

Surviving are a son, Terry Lee (Joy) Hartman of Columbia City; a grandson, Greg (Jennie) Hartman of Auburn; and two great-grandchildren, Elicia Hartman and Paul Hartman.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a grandson, Bradley Paul Hartman; a daughter-in-law, Diane Hartman; and a brother, Fay Mountz.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 11, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Center St., Waterloo.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is 3 to 8 p.m. today, Friday, June 10, at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Waterloo United Methodist Church or Heartland Hospice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Jack Buttermore

AUBURN — Jack Buttermore, 84, of Auburn, passed away June 10, 2011.

He was born May 2, 1927, in Auburn to Chester and Rose (Habig) Buttermore.

Jack was a dairy/grain farmer and the owner-operator of Buttermore Sand & Gravel.

He served on the Board of Directors of Peoples Federal Savings Bank from 1980-2005 and on the board of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

He married Phyllis Conley on Dec. 6, 1947.

Jack is survived by his wife and four daughters, Margaret Buttermore, Janet (Gerry) Nagel, Susan Buttermore, and Elizabeth (Jeff) Conrad. His grandchildren are Jennifer Nagel, Jonathan Nagel, Jack Conrad, and Kathryn Conrad. Also surviving are sisters-in-law, Dorothy Conley and Audra Conley, and a brother-in-law, Nick Minichillo.

The family will receive friends Monday, June 13, from 4-8 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. A family graveside service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be given to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Naomi Rakestraw

AUBURN — Naomi L. Rakestraw, 98, of Auburn died Thursday, June 9, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Rakestraw

She was born February 18, 1913, in Churubusco to the late William Henry and Mary Margaret (Dominy) LaMarr.

She was a secretary and bookkeeper for over 41 years for Ball Brass and Aluminum Foundry before retiring in 1991.

She was a member of Day Spring Community Church. She was very active in the church over the years holding several offices.

She was a member of Christian Women's Business Association and Gideon's.

Naomi married Raymond L. Rakestraw on November 26, 1936, in Angola and he died on April 26, 1972.

She is survived by a sister, Emily Farmer of Auburn; nieces and nephews, Cynthia Deally of Cardiff by the Sea, Calif., Sally Brown of Auburn, Michael Farmer of Auburn, Susan Snyder of Auburn, Amanda Maier of Auburn and David Maier of Connecticut. There are several great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; six sisters Edith LaMarr, Ethel LaMarr, Ruth LaMarr, Betty Taylor, Hilda Fankhauser and Janet Maier; and nieces and nephews, David Cooper, John Fankhauser, Richard Farmer, William Maier and Anne Likens.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 12, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is 2 hours prior to the service from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Youth for Christ or DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR

JUNE 12 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Ruth Farrington was very driven

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Ruth Farrington had a knack for organization, which helped her raise six children, run several offices, tend to a dairy farm and serve several volunteer organizations. She was a woman who loved to stay busy, said daughter Julie Ramsey.

Farrington, 89, of Auburn died Feb. 28, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Ramsey, of Auburn, said her mother was never idle. Even when relaxing, she always had a book, or played computer solitaire. It wasn't in her nature to sit still, she said. Even as a child, Farrington would often go to work with her father delivering oil, ice or other goods.

"She developed a strong work ethic early on in life," Ramsey said. She carried that work ethic to adulthood when she married Charles Farrington and the two ran their own dairy farm.

Rex Farrington said his mother was an important part of the farm. She washed out steel tanks, used for storing milk, daily. In addition, she cooked for the hired farmhands, canned food and butchered chickens.

The couple had six children, who made life infinitely more hectic, Ramsey said. When Ramsey entered kindergarten, her mother went to work, she said. Farrington graduated from a business college in Fort Wayne and, soon after, began her career as a businesswoman.

Throughout her career, Farrington worked in the county clerk's office, served as a legal secretary, a medical office manager and eventually co-owned Farrington Real Estate with her husband.

"Mom was driven, and she had a good business mind," Rex Farrington said. "For a woman in the business world, filled with men, she wasn't afraid." He said his mother loved to work and continued to sell real estate until she was unable to walk.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A photo of the Farrington family. In front, from left are Charles Farrington with Julie on his lap, sons Jim and John and matriarch Ruth Farrington holds Rex on her lap. In back are older sisters Louise and Pat. Daughter Julie Ramsey said family was always very important to her mother.

His mother was also very involved with civic and volunteer organizations, Farrington said. She was a member of the Waterloo Lions Club, volunteered at the concession stands at the Little League field, transposed music for individual instruments for the Waterloo Orchestra and generally helped out wherever she could. And, she still had time to bake chocolate chip cookies each Saturday, said her daughter Louise Rockey.

Working, farming, volunteering and raising six children required quite a bit of effort, Ramsey said. There were to-do lists for each child, each morning, and Farrington said every child was taught to be responsible for themselves and their siblings. He said his mother instilled a strong work ethic in each of her children.

"Everyone pulled their weight," Farrington said. "There were no freebies and no one was going to do it for you."

But, even as busy as she often was, Ramsey said her mom always had time to cook delicious meals. Each kid pitched in and helped set the table, chop vegetables or wash dishes, leaving their mother to cook.

"She baked pies all the time, and we always had a Sunday dinner," Ramsey said. "Mom was wonderful at everything she did."

Charles Hall

GARRETT — Charles E. Hall, 59, of Garrett, died Saturday, June 11, 2011, at 5:30 a.m. at his home.

He was born Oct. 22, 1951, in Floyd County, Prestonsburg, Ky., to William H. and Ann (Slone) Hall and they preceded him in death.

He married Edna J. Hull on Dec. 13, 1969, in Angola.

He was a tree trimmer for 26 years, retiring in 1997 from NG Gilbert, Muncie. He was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, LaOtto.

Surviving are his wife: Edna J. Hall of Garrett; two sons Tony Hall of Auburn and Thomas Hall of Garrett; a daughter and son-in-law, Kathleen and Warren Fleming of Garrett; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; five brothers, Henry Hall of Angola, Billy Hall of Zigler, Ill.; Art Hall of Bronson, Mo.; Rick Hall of Johnstontown, Ill.; and Mike Hall of Bronson, Mo.; and two sisters, Kay Spurgeon of Fremont and Lisa Burchett of Blueriver, Ky.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, James Stanley and Frank Hall, and a sister, Joan Hall.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with Pastor Forrest Van Gundy officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Kidney Foundation or the American Diabetes Foundation.

Condolences may be left at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Walter Helf

AUBURN — Walter S. Helf, 92, of Auburn, died at 4:30 a.m. Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Helf

He was born May 11, 1919 in Edgerton, Ohio to Jay M. and Emma A. (Stoll) Helf, and they preceded him in death.

He married Mary K. Smith on Aug. 15, 1939 in West Unity, Ohio, and she died Sept. 30, 2003.

Walter was a brakeman and conductor on the B & O Railroad for 26 years, retiring in 1972.

He is survived by his daughter, Karen S. (Kenneth L.) Smith of Waterloo; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his son in-law: David A. (Kathie) Crowe, New York and a brother and sister: Don Helf of Sylvania, Ohio, and Evelyn Beals of Arizona.

Walter was preceded in death by his wife, Mary K. Helf; a daughter, Nancy L. Crowe; two brothers, Ernest and Lawrence Helf; and three sisters: Marian Roose, Lela Boyd and Laverne Pressler.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

There will be no services at this time.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

STAR

JUNE 14 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jerry Alger

AUBURN — Jerry T. Alger, 85, died Friday, June 10, 2011, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. Alger

Mr. Alger was a graduate of the Illinois School of Technology.

He worked as a Chief Engineer for Honeywell Inc. in California for Essex International in Auburn, and for King Seely in Kendallville, retiring in 1981. He then went to work for DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn for 12 years, retiring in 1994.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. He was a lifetime member of the NRA, as well as a member of the American Society of Gas Engineers, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn.

He was born May 21, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois.

He married Betty A. Egar on Feb. 3, 1951, in Chicago, Illinois. She died Jan. 15, 2008.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David J. and Jayne Alger of Ligonier, and Jon A. and Shawn Alger of Fort Wayne; three daughters and sons-in-law, Jerri-Ann Carlson of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Beth A. and William Walsh of Auburn, and Judi M. and Shannon Burgess of Albion; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and Debbie Alger of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his father, Orin F. Alger; his mother and stepfather, Harriette J. (Weber) and Leo Davidson; his wife, Betty Alger; a brother, Alan F. Alger; and a sister, Patricia A. Maloney.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling from 9-10 a.m. prior to the service. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating.

Calling will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday with a reciting of the Rosary service being held at 7:30 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Richard Hartleroad

MACY — Richard N. Hartleroad, 91, of Macy, Ind., died Sunday, June 12, 2011, at the Veterans Hospital in Marion.

Mr. Hartleroad

Mr. Hartleroad was a retired plumbing and heating salesman.

He served in the U. S. Army during World War II. His military decorations include the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

He was born in Peru, Ind., on March 24, 1920, to Ray and Ruth (Brenton) Hartleroad. He married Anna Lee Drake on Sept. 20, 1948, and she preceded him in death on Nov. 22, 1992.

Survivng are three sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Louise Hartleroad of Peru, Randall and Donna Hartleroad of Fort Wayne and Voyle and Helen Hartleroad of Butler; four daughters and sons-in-law, Bernice and William Armstrong of Arcadia, Fla., Jeanine and Ben Cripen of Macy, Ramona and Mike Baldridge of Rome City, and Latrisha and Robert Krontz of Angola; 20 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth Ann Tollison of Winona Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Anna Lee; and three brothers, Ray, Robert and Joseph Hartleroad.

A celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Eikenberry-Eddy Funeral Home, 84 W. Main St., Peru, with Pastor Bill Weaver and Voyle Hartleroad officiating.

Military graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Butler Cemetery in Butler.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made through the funeral home to the United Cerebral Palsy of Indiana.

Online condolences may be made at www.eddyfuneralhomes.com

David Bible

WATERLOO — David Anthony Bible, 45, died Sunday, June 12, 2011, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Bible was a factory worker for various factories in northeast Indiana.

He was born Oct. 28, 1958, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Surviving are his mother, Sally (Garrett) Bible Dingley of Waterloo; a son, Thomas Todd Bible of New Haven; three brothers, James Andrew Bible of Waterloo, Christopher Adrian Bible of Auburn, and Garrett Alan Bible of Stuart, Fla.; and several aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his father, Derewood Bible.

There will be no services conducted.

Memorials may be directed to the family, in care of Sally Dingley, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, IN 46793.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Elmo Molter

WATERLOO — Elmo Molter, 72, died on June 13, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Molter

He was born December 7, 1938, at home to Gladys and Elwin Molter. He will follow them in death.

Still surviving are Ileen Molter, his wife; Robert Molter, his brother; two sons, Perry and Tod Molter; and a grandson, Lance Molter.

Mr. Molter became an EMT in 1980 and worked as an EMT reserve from 1980-1983. Mr. Molter served as Steuben County EMS director from 1983-1989. He became a paramedic in 1995. He then retired from Steuben County in 2003.

To family, friends and loved ones that knew him, he died with a broken heart after serving his community and was let down by the system.

Mr. Molter enjoyed serving his community and had very few hobbies. He loved doing woodworking, carpentry, being outdoors with his flowers and loved all his animals.

Pastor Steven Altman will be performing services for Elmo Molter.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, Thursday, at the Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home with viewing one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be in Orland at Greenlawn Cemetery following services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Orland Volunteer Fire Department.

Send condolences online to www.fellerandclark.com.

David Bible

WATERLOO — David Anthony Bible, 45, died Sunday, June 12, 2011, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Bible was a factory worker for various factories in northeast Indiana.

He was born Oct. 28, 1965, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Surviving are his mother, Sally (Garrett) Bible Dingley of Waterloo; a son, Thomas Todd Bible of New Haven; three brothers, James Andrew Bible of Waterloo, Christopher Adrian Bible of Auburn, and Garrett Alan Bible of Stuart, Fla.; and several aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his father, Derewood Bible.

There will be no services conducted.

Memorials may be directed to the family, in care of Sally Dingley, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, IN 46793.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Kathryn Stebing

AUBURN — Kathryn A. Stebing, 95, of Auburn died Monday, June 13, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1605 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Wilbur Yates officiating.

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 111 E. Ludwig Road, Suite 105, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4240.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Neville Smyth

KENDALLVILLE — Neville Carson Smyth, 81, of Kendallville died Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Smyth

He was born November 23, 1929, in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, to Harry and Mary (Carson) Smyth.

He was an Electrician for Ford Motor Company of Woodhaven, Mich., retiring in 1991.

Neville was a devoted family man and an avid Detroit Red Wings fan.

He married Beverly (Squier) Lawson on March 6, 2010, in Columbia City and she survives. He is also survived by a son, Keith Smyth of Bellville, Mich.; his new family, JoAnn (Dave) Crace of Columbia City, Judy (Gary) Hart of Auburn and Edison (Kim) Shippy Jr. of Kendallville; a sister Helen Watson of Hillsboro, Northern Ireland; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Mary Smyth; and a son, Alan Maxwell Smyth.

Services will be at 12 noon Saturday, June 18, 2011, at the Auburn Nazarene Church.

Calling is today, Friday, June 17, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and also one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Memorials can be directed to the Auburn Nazarene Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Lois Wright

ANGOLA — Lois M. Wright, 88, passed away at 8:15 a.m. Thursday, June 16, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Wright

Mrs. Wright was a homemaker.

She was born in DeKalb County, Indiana, on April 12, 1923, to Glenn and Hazel (Bordner) Stackhouse.

She was an avid NASCAR fan, and enjoyed birdwatching and making quilts.

She married Robert W. Wright on May 3, 1941, in Salem Center and he passed away on April 14, 2002. They moved to Wall Lake in 1986 from the Hudson area and spent winters in Arcadia, Fla.

Surviving are a son and his family in Alabama; a daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Don Gunn of Indianapolis; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Ora and Rita Stackhouse of Pleasant Lake, Ralph and Carroll Stackhouse of Corunna and William and Gloria Stackhouse of Angola; a special nephew and his wife, Bill and Julie Stackhouse; a special niece and her husband, Angie and Eric Sauter; her caregiver and very special niece, Jessica Bogert; three grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Gladys and Ruth, and seven brothers, Allen, Raymond, Paul, Robert, John, Albert and Dallas.

Friends may call at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, on Saturday, June 18, 2011, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. at Fairfield Cemetery with Pastor Donna Holcomb and Mrs. Wright's nephew, Pastor Jeff L. Stackhouse, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Cameron Home Care and Hospice.

Send online condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Mark Bryant

AUBURN — Mark Alan Bryant, 53, of Auburn fought a strong and courageous battle with cancer but it took his life Friday morning, June 17, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. His faith helped him in his journey.

Mr. Bryant

He was born in Portland on March 15, 1958, to Glen and Mary (Hidy) Bryant. They survive in Portland.

Mark was the Director of Engineering at Pioneer Surgical of Marquette, Mich. He holds more than 30 patents in the Orthopedic Implant field.

He was a former volunteer fireman with the Auburn Fire Department and also was a former volunteer with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department.

He married Jan Blotkamp on May 10, 1986, in Portland and she survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Jessica Bryant of Auburn; a son, Corporal James P. Bryant USMC of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; a brother, William (Holly) Bryant of Muncie; three sisters, Gena (John) Bryant-Coers of Muncie, Amy (Mitch) Sutton of Portland and Betsy (Jim) Fennig of Portland; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Patrick James Bryant.

Services are at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Jess Jessup officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb County Shop with a Cop Program or the Auburn Fire Department.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Coty Parsons

BUTLER — Coty M. Parsons 21 died Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

He was born Nov. 26, 1989, in Auburn to Don Parsons and Angela Dove.

Survivors include his mother, Angela and Richard Knapp of Pleasant Lake; his father, Don and Melinda Parsons of Butler; a sister, Paige Parsons and Zach Carnahan of Angola; a half sister, Ashley Dove of Kendallville; a half brother, Joshua Hart of Kendallville; a stepbrother, Brody Cooper of Butler; his grandparents, Larry and Kathy Dove of Butler, Karen Knapp of Pleasant Lake, Earl Collins and Cindy Chriswell of Waterloo, Emma Jean Davis of Arizona, and Larry and Lana High of Butler.

There are no services or calling at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are requested to the family.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Bette Smith

GARRETT — Bette C. Smith, 87 of Garrett died Thursday, June 16, 2011, at Bethlehem Woods in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith was a secretary at Bauman-Harnish Rubber Co. in Garrett before her retirement.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett Eagles Auxiliary and Garrett American Legion Auxiliary.

She was born March 1, 1924, to Henry and Katheryn (Potter) Moses. She married Walter "Bud" Smith on Dec. 22, 1942, in Garrett and he died Dec. 22, 1997.

She is survived by two sons, Patrick Smith and Frederick Smith, both of Garrett; two daughters, Susan Burtch of Naples, Fla., and Martha (Scott) Troutner of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Joseph Smith, and a brother, William Moses.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Joe Laher officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service.

Memorials are to the Garrett Police Department or the Garrett Volunteer Fire Department

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

STAR
JUNE 19 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Shirley Boyer

BUTLER — Shirley M. Boyer 80, died Friday, June 17, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 6, 1931, to Guy and Myrtle (Gilbert) Heckathorn.

She retired from Bohn Aluminum.

Survivors include four sons, Dennis Richmond of Butler, Steve Richmond and William Richmond, both of Hamilton, and Tony Boyer of Angola; two daughters, Diana Delle of Colon, Mich. and Teresa Stomm of Angola.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Dorothy Krontz.

No services or visitations are scheduled. Arrangements are by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Teacher will be remembered

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — She mentored and educated hundreds of children in her 22 years as an elementary school teacher.

Her life impacted thousands of others through her involvement in 4-H, the South Milford Church of Christ where she played the piano and her love of music.

Belinda Beiswanger, 55, of Kendallville, died May 26, 2011. She will be remembered for her genuine desire to help others and her quiet, dedicated life as a teacher, wife and mother.

She graduated from Whitko High School in 1973 as the class valedictorian and went on to Purdue University to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. She completed a Master of Education degree at Indiana University and then invested her talents in the lives of children as an elementary school teacher at Wolf Lake, Albion, schools in Whitley County and for the past 12 years at Wayne Center Elementary School in the East Noble school district.

Her colleagues at Wayne Center always will remember their caring friend.

"I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with Belinda," said Wayne Center Principal Karen Gandy. "She was a dedicated and talented teacher who put her heart into everything she did. She will be missed immensely."

Longtime Wayne Center teacher Mike Pasquali said Beiswanger had an extremely positive outlook on life.

"She was always looking on the bright side of things. When I had the opportunity to work with Belinda, I found her to be so caring and dependable," he said.

Mrs. Beiswanger befriended Dawn Jackson when Jackson started teaching at Wayne Center many years ago. Jackson said Mrs. Beiswanger was a person she could go to for support. Teacher Tracey Ihrie agreed.

"When you passed her in the hall, you just felt better," said Ihrie. "You could go to her with any problem, and she would listen, but rarely complained about anything. She would listen and always make you feel better." Several of Wayne Center's food-service employees remarked how pleasant Mrs. Beiswanger was to others.

Her Wayne Center colleagues recalled how Mrs. Beiswanger's laugh made everyone smile.

"Belinda had a laugh you couldn't ignore. It would always brighten your day," said Diana Lute.

Mrs. Beiswanger's daughter, Kelly Beiswanger, believes her mother's laugh lives on through her.

"They say I have your laugh. I hope I've inherited some of your joy, too," she said about her mother.

Her students benefited greatly from her dedication, said Jackson: "She cared deeply for her students and always gave them 100 percent of her energy to see to it they would succeed in the classroom."

Tammy Terry loved to watch Mrs. Beiswanger teach, because she had a calmness, and yet her students always knew what she expected of them.

In his eulogy, South Milford Church of Christ minister Brian Walter described how Mrs. Beiswanger enjoyed traveling with family and friends to places such as Switzerland, Hawaii, Florida and Yellowstone National Park. She took many trips with her husband, Lee Beiswanger, on their Goldwing motorcycle.

Her faith was very important. Wayne Center teacher Deb Cooper said it was obvious to everyone Mrs. Beiswanger was a Christian, and her church and church family were priorities in her life, adding, "She always beamed when discussing happenings at church."

Walter described how Mrs. Beiswanger tried to pass on her piano skills to her daughter and son, Ben.

"We were not very good students for our mom," said Kelly Beiswanger, who enjoyed listening to her mom practice at home before she went to practice at the church prior to services.

Kelly said her mother taught her to trust God outside of all circumstances, and see the most important things. Despite her illness that was taking her life, Mrs. Beiswanger remained positive for her family.

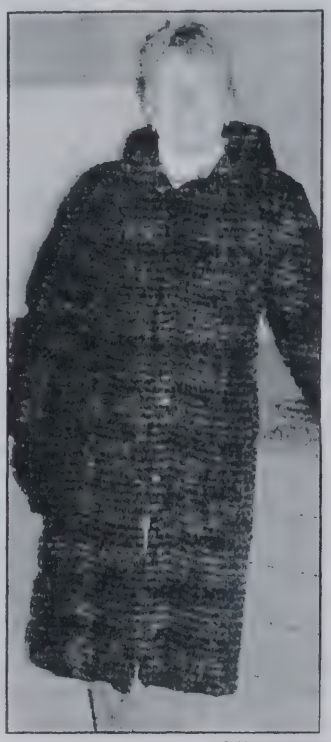


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Belinda Beiswanger stands in her new Wayne Center Elementary School classroom when the new school opened in 2009.

"We all endured things that we didn't think we were capable of enduring, and you had the most perseverance of all," said her daughter.

In addition to her daughter, son, and husband of 27 years, Mrs. Beiswanger is survived by her mother, Edna Bryant, her brother, Bruce (Lisa) Bryant, her sister, Angie (Mark) Green, her brother, Jim (Susan) Bryant, and many nieces and nephews.

"I'm sure the angels were singing a song of 'Hallelujah' when Belinda entered the Kingdom," said Cooper.

Mrs. Beiswanger is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Charlotte Fee

AUBURN — Charlotte A. Fee, 79, of Auburn died Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at her home.

Mrs. Fee

She was born October 21, 1931, in Auburn to the late Oscar and Vesta (Long) Shull.

Charlotte was a clerk in the DeKalb County Treasurer's office for a number of years then was the secretary for the DeKalb County Highway Department until her retirement in 2000.

She is a member of the Auburn Alliance Church, Gideon's International and was a former member of the Eastern Star.

She married Raymond Fee on November 25, 1949, in Coldwater, Mich., and he survives in Auburn.

She is also survived by two daughters and a son, Jolene Holly of Fort Wayne, Jennifer Walker of Fort Wayne and Tim Fee of Auburn; five grandchildren, Heather Walker, Ben Walker, Brad (Lucy) Jacobs, Carl (Cherie) Jacobs and Christopher Walker and nine great-grandchildren.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Mary Sawchuck and Barb Kessler, and a brother, Bob Shull.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 25, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black and the Rev. Shawn DuFault officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Gideon's International.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Susan Whetstone

FORT WAYNE — Susan L. Whetstone, 70, died Tuesday, June 21, 2011, in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Whetstone was as an administrative assistant with Allen County Treasurer's and Auditor's offices for 26 years.

Mrs. Whetstone

She was a 45-year member of the Fort Wayne Turners and a more than 50-year member of Tri Kappa Sorority. She was also a member of the Settlers, PEO and a volunteer at the Embassy Theater and the Botanical Gardens.

She graduated from Auburn High School and attended International Business College.

Mrs. Whetstone was born in Willard, Ohio to Roger and Eleanor Knauer. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, Jeffery D. Whetstone of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Amy L. and Jamie Thompson of Columbus, Ohio; a brother, Roger "Skip" and Debbie Knauer of Angola; and a sister, Barbara and Roger Wessel of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, William W. Whetstone.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at D. O. McComb and Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, with the Rev. Phil Emerson officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Friday with a Tri Kappa Sorority service at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Fort Wayne Turners or Parkview Hospice.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Coty Parsons

BUTLER — Coty M. Parsons died Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the pavilion by the lake at Buck Lake Ranch.

A carry-in picnic is planned.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

STAR

JUNE 24 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Benjamin Salmons

FORT WAYNE — Benjamin Herbert Salmons Jr., 48, died Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne from injuries sustained in a one-car accident Tuesday evening.

He was born October 21, 1962, in Corbin, Kentucky, to Benjamin H. and Ellen J. (Ross) Salmons Sr. His father has passed away and his mother survives in LaFontaine, Ind.

Benjamin was an excellent carpenter and craftsman.

Besides his mother he is survived by two sons, Benjamin Adam Salmons and Luke Jarred Salmons, both of Kendallville; a daughter, Danielle Nichole Weber of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Robin Haggerty of LaFontaine and Tami Roberts of Colorado; and a brother Ronnie Clady of Kentucky.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25, 2011, at Embry Cemetery, Garrett, with the Rev. Sid Roberts officiating.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Richard Mackin

NEW HAVEN — Richard L. Mackin, 79, died Friday, June 24, 2011, at Village Oaks at Fort Wayne.

Mr. Mackin

Born in Fort Wayne, he was the son of the late Howard and Evelyn Mackin.

He was a member of Martini Lutheran Church, New Haven.

He served his country in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War.

He was a member of the New Haven Adams Township Fire Department, was the former fire chief of the Adams Township Fire Department #1, and was a 50-year life-member of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association.

He was honored by the Allen County Firefighters Association as Firefighter of the Year in 1986.

He retired in 1982 from Dana Corp. after 32 1/2 years of service.

He is survived by his children, Michael L. (Cathy) Mackin of New Haven, Robert L. (Stefanie) Mackin and Emma Jean (Jean) Smith, both of Fort Wayne, Darla J. (Michael) Drew of Auburn, and Janet A. (David) Burke of Ossian; his siblings, Thomas Mackin Sr. and Phyllis Statler; his grandchildren, Kevin (Shelley) and Adam Drew, Nathan and Jordan Burke, Michael and Jenna Mackin, Kimberly and Kristen Smith, and Stephanie and Kaitlyn Mackin; and his five great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his wife, Mary in 2003; and brother, James A. Mackin Sr.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. Tuesday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 State Road 930 E., New Haven, with calling one hour prior. The Rev. Matt Kohl will officiate. Burial is in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling is 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home, with an I.V.F.A. memorial service at 8 p.m.

Preferred memorials are to I.V.F.A.A. Mary Mackin Scholarship Fund or Alzheimer's Association.

For online condolences go to www.harperfuneralhome.com.

Tim Sponhower

AUBURN — Tim Andrew Sponhower, of Auburn, passed to Spirit Thursday evening, June 16, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn., where he suffered from complications resulting from progressive congestive heart, lung and kidney failure following surgery.

Tim was born November 17, 1953, in Auburn where he resided. Having traced ancestral history back to some of the first residents settling in DeKalb County, Tim and family lived for many years in the home on the very land his great-grandfathers Cyrus and Andrew Sponhower homesteaded many generations ago. Tim's ancestor William Magginis originally walked from Pennsylvania, eventually settling in DeKalb County in the late 1880s.

Tim was a devoted father and a truly dedicated and hard-working soul. He spent the past 19 years restoring a vintage Victorian home in Auburn. His love for antiques and historic architecture drove his interests and passion for vintage furnishings and architectural restoration.

In the late 1970s he owned and operated Ye Olde Trail Antiques and Collectibles located at 1330 S. Main. His career spanned from that of a welder for American Hoist and Derek, a pipe fitter, plumber and maintenance technician for Scherer Contracting and was employed for 19 years at Zollner Pistons until 2007 as his declining health overshadowed his physical well-being.

He is survived by his wife, Karen (Scott); his sons, Elgin Sponhower and Eric Sponhower of Auburn; a granddaughter, Grace LeeAna (Sponhower); his mother, Dorothy Marie Sponhower; three sisters, Jane Meshburger of Lynn Grove, Ind., Joan Benz of Missouri and Jill Hoard of Auburn; and one brother, Mark Sponhower, also of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy E. Sponhower.

Memorial services will be held on Sunday, July 10. 2011, at the Hopewell United Brethren Church, located at 6852 C.R. 35, Auburn, at 3 p.m. With respect to Tim's wishes, cremation services have been administered.

"He will be missed so much and will Forever be in our Hearts! God's Speed and Blessings, Tim! We will look for your among the stars and the rainbows of God's creation and among the many Angels we call upon for comfort and guidance."

Memorials and contributions can be forwarded to lung and hematology research and medical care at the St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

STAR
JUNE 26 2011 Auburn, Indiana

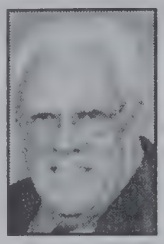
Crothers was engineer, family man

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Dean Crothers was an engineer, who his wife said was easy going and would drop everything to play with his family.

Mr. Crothers, 86, of Angola, died June 19 at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation in Angola.

Mr. Crothers was born Dec. 10, 1924 in Auburn to Ralph and Veda (Pfleightner) Crothers. On Sept. 26, 1945, he married Phyllis Folck.


Crothers

The couple was married for 65 years, though they knew each other longer than that. "We were on seventh-grade student council at Angola Middle School. I knew him before seventh-grade. In fifth-grade, he had come from Avilla. I remember him in sixth-grade, he had a black and white pony jacket," Phyllis said.

The couple dated other people, but attended the junior and senior proms together.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Gen. George Patton's Army in the 249th Combat Engineers. Mr. Crothers helped build bridges across the Rhine River.

While in the service, their courtship continued, as he wrote love letters to Phyllis between 1943-45.

"He was a real clean-cut fellow and was nice. I agreed to marry him in a letter. His parents gave me a ring," she said. "He came home Sept. 16, 1945 and we were married Sept. 26. We were both 20-years-old. Boys had to be 21, so his dad had to give him permission."

The couple was married by Rev. John Humfreys at a chapel. "We tried to pay Rev. Humfreys. He said, 'I won't take money. You're neighbors.' My dad killed two chickens and paid with that. They were coming out of the Depression," she said.

He graduated from Tri-State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering.

Mr. Crothers worked in the aerospace industry in hydraulics and engineering for 42 years, Consumer Power in Michigan for three years, Bendix for 15 years and National Water Lift for 24 years. Mr. Crothers moved around the country with the change in jobs with his family: from Michigan to Hamilton, Ohio and to California. Smog out West forced the Crothers back to Hamilton, Ohio. Eventually, the family bought a place at Crooked Lake.

"He was easy to live with. He was a do-it-yourself. The kids said at his funeral if he was painting and they wanted to (water ski), he got down and took them," Phyllis said.

The Crothers traveled extensively to Europe, Alaska, and Mexico. "He enjoyed it. He never made a big fuss (if he didn't like something). He was flexible and liked socializing," Phyllis said.

He was a member of Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes at Angola, the Orland American Legion, and a 50-year member of the Angola Masonic Lodge 236. He was a former member of the Angola Lions Club and the Jolly Dozen.

He survived by his wife, Phyllis, of Angola, two daughters: Tamara (Tim) Ballance of Newark, Ohio; and Robin (Larry) Houghton of Portage, Mich., four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Betty Miller.

Burial was in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola with military graveside services by the Orland American Legion.

Memorials may be made to the Angola Lions Club and the Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes at Angola.

STAR

JUNE 26 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Nancy Shadle

BUTLER — Nancy M. Shadle, 70, of Butler, Ind., and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Friday, June 24, 2011 at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She worked as a housekeeper for many years at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 4, 1940 in New Haven, Ind. to William and Mildred M. (Kimmel) Fark. She married Pasco H. Shadle on April 19, 1963 in New Haven. He preceded her in death on Nov. 3, 2006.

Surviving are: a daughter, Connie (Ron) Hollinger, Butler, Ind.; two grandchildren; two sisters, Donna Shuler, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Geraldine Grover, Markle, Ind.; and three half brothers, Michael Hieber, Hoagland, Ind., David Hieber, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Jerry Hieber, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, Ind., with Rev. David Mix officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday, June 27, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online or the online register book may be signed by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

STAR
JUNE 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Lucy McDonald

BUTLER — Lucy N. McDonald, 74, died Sunday, June 26, 2011, at Woodview Healthcare in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. McDonald retired from Electric Motors and Specialties in Garrett.

She was born July 2, 1936, in Butler to Charles and Margaret (Hubbard) Zimmerman. She married Harold McDonald on June 27, 1953, he preceded in death in August 2004.

Surviving are a daughter, Denise (Pat) Kendrick of Fort Wayne; a brother, Robert Zimmerman of Butler; two sisters, Beatrice Green of Butler and Mary Barney of Ohio; and two grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her her parents, and two brothers, Wesley and Paul Zimmerman.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Herbert Sutton

HUNTERTOWN — Herbert K. Sutton, 86, a resident of rural Huntertown and widely acquainted DeKalb County farmer, passed away at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2011, at the family residence in Butler Township. He had been in failing health for the past month.

Mr. Sutton

Mr. Sutton was born in Fort Wayne on November 7, 1924, a son of Charles and Mary (Rupley) Sutton. He spent his formative years in the Huntertown-LaOtto area and graduated from Huntertown High School in 1943.

On March 20, 1948, he was married in Churubusco to Mary E. Geiger. He and his wife moved to their present farm home in DeKalb County in 1956 where he was engaged in farming all of his adult life, retiring in 1998. He was a school bus driver for Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District for 35 years, served on the Butler Township Advisory Board for several years, and was an active supporter of DeKalb County 4-H.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Hicksville, Ohio, Loyal Order of Moose Arie 1301 in Auburn, and enjoyed square dancing and participating in tractor pulls.

The surviving relatives include his wife, Mary, to whom he was married for over 63 years; a son, Dennis (Suzanne) Sutton of LaOtto; three daughters, Vickie (Richard) Nodine, Nancy (Mike) Chittenden, and Peggy (Marion) Tarlton Jr., all of Garrett; a brother, Dale (Arlene) Freeman of Huntertown; 12 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Ilene Fulk.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Larry Smith, pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the mortuary, or one hour prior to the service Friday morning.

Interment will be in the Cedar Creek Cemetery, south of Garrett.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 or to the DeKalb County Horesemen's Association Horse and Pony Building Fund, care of Bill Knott, 6422 S.R. 205, LaOtto, IN 46763.

To leave an online condolence for the family in Mr. Sutton's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

M. Dwight McClure

AVILLA — M. Dwight McClure, 90, died Monday, June 27, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. McClure

Mr. McClure had been self-employed for more than 20 years as a locksmith.

He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran.

He was born March 11, 1921, in Beggs, Okla., to William and Alta (Taylor) McClure. He married Rita A. Gubelman on Oct. 3, 1942. She died Oct. 2, 2005.

Surviving are two sons, Gregory and Deb McClure of Auburn and Stephen and Karlene McClure of Fort Wayne; two daughters, Lisa Grogg of Fort Wayne and Gena and Rick Wray of Angola; a brother, LaVerne McClure of Texas; a sister, Doris Wilson of Kansas; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Sherrell Bennett.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson with the Rev. Jess L. Jessup officiating.

Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent online to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Donald Dove

AUBURN — Donald D. Dove, 90, of Auburn died Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Dove

Born July 4, 1920 in Auburn, he was the son of the late Frank and Martha Dove.

Mr. Dove graduated from Spencerville High School in 1939 and married Eloise (Dilgard) Dove on October 20, 1946, in Auburn.

He was a P-47 fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corp during WW II, flying more than 100 missions and partaking in combat during the D-Day invasion. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, various air medals, medallions and 15 oak leaf clusters while serving time in Europe.

After the service, he returned to farming. In addition, he was a maintenance worker for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School System where he was also a bus driver.

His hobbies included woodworking, fishing and mushroom hunting.

He is survived by his wife Eloise Dove of Auburn; his sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Kathy Dove of Auburn, Larry Dove of Auburn and Loren and Millie Dove of Fort Wayne; his daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and Denny Meschberger of Auburn and Jan and Rick Brown of Punta Gorda, Fla.; a brother and sister-in-law, Ralph and Joan Dove of Huntertown; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Russell Dove; and a sister, Bernice Menges.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, with calling one hour prior, at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Lyle Ewing from Auburn Presbyterian Church will officiate.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation is also Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Quiet Knight, a memorial program designed to assist local veterans with financial needs.

To sign the online guest book visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Tim Sponhower

AUBURN — Tim Andrew Sponhower, of Auburn, quietly passed to Spirit Thursday evening, June 16, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn., where he suffered from complications resulting from progressive congestive heart, lung and kidney failure following surgery.

Mr. Sponhower

Tim was born November 17, 1953 in Auburn where he resided. Having traced his ancestral history back to some of the earliest residents settling in DeKalb, County, Tim and family lived for many years in the home on the very land his great-grandfathers Cyrus and Andrew Sponhower homesteaded many generations ago. Tim's ancestor, William Magginis originally walked from Pennsylvania, eventually settling in DeKalb County in the 1880s.

Tim was a devoted father and a truly dedicated and hard-working soul. He spent the past 19 years restoring a vintage Victorian home in Auburn. His love for antiques and historic architecture drove his interests and passion for vintage furnishings and architectural restoration.

In the late 1970s he owned and operated Ye Olde Trail Antiques and Collectibles located at 1330 S. Main. His career spanned from that of a welder for American Hoist and Derek, to that of a pipe-fitter, plumber and maintenance technician employed by both Scherer Mechanical Contracting and was also employed & held the same position as lead maintence at Zollner Pistons for 19 years, until 2007 as his declining health overshadowed his physical well-being.

He is survived by his wife, Karen (Scott), his sons, Elgin Sponhower and Eric Sponhower of Auburn, a granddaughter, Grace LeeAna (Sponhower), his mother Dorothy Marie Sponhower, three sisters, Jane Meshburger of Lynn Grove, Ind., Joan Benz of Missouri and Jill Hoard of Auburn brother, and his brother, Mark Sponhower, also of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy E. Sponhower.

Memorial services will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2011 at the Hopewell United Brethren Church, located at 6852 C.R. 35, Auburn, at 3:00 p.m. With respect to Tim's wishes, cremation services have previously been administered.

He will be missed so much and will forever be in our hearts! God's Speed & Blessings, Tim! We will look for you among the stars & the rainbows of God's creation and among the many Angels we call upon for comfort & guidance.

Memorials and contributions can be forwarded to Lung and Hematology Research and Medical Care at the St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

James Baker

SPENCERVILLE — James "J.C." Baker, 72, died Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at his home in Spencerville.

He was born on January 23, 1939, in Laconia, Tenn., to the late Lavon Dale and Alma Louise (Clutts) Baker.

Surviving are his lifetime friend and companion, Janet Hoover of Spencerville; a daughter, Debbie Millay and Joe of Hamilton; a son, Tony (Karen) Baker of Hamilton; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Joyce Kugler of LaOtto, Carolyn Dusendschon of Fort Wayne and Peggy (Bill) Hamilton of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Bonnie Bishop, and a brother, Wayne Baker.

He worked in the parts department at International Harvester/Navistar until he retired.

He was a member of the Hicksville Eagles, Garrett Eagles, Auburn Moose and a social member of the Butler American Legion.

He enjoyed all kinds of racing, auctions and loved to walk in different health walks.

Calling will be held on Friday form 3-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, Ind.

Services will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Donna Gammon officiating.

Burial will be in White City Cemetery.

Memorials are to the Spencerville Community Club, P.O. Box 42, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Richard Wisner

AUBURN — Richard O. "Red" Wisner, 82, of Auburn died Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wisner

He was born Aug. 11, 1928, in Steuben County, to Liston and Luella (Porter) Wisner.

He graduated from Metz High School in 1946.

He married Rebecca J. McClish in Nov. of 1946, in Metz, and she survives in Auburn.

Mr. Wisner then joined the U.S. Army serving during WWII where he spent most of his service in Japan.

After returning from the service, he engaged in farming for about six years. He was then employed by the Dana Corp. in Auburn, Auburn Foundry, and then retired from the Rieke Corp. in Auburn.

He was a member of the Butler American Legion Post 202 and St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

He loved golfing, fishing and woodworking.

He started coaching Little League Baseball in 1959 in Hamilton until he moved to Auburn where he continued coaching Little League, Pony League and American Legion League.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca; two daughters, Teresa (Darrell) Culley of Auburn, Christy Parker of Auburn; five grandchildren, Steve (Angela) Parker of Auburn, Rachel Culley of Auburn, David Parker of Auburn, Sara Heimann of Auburn and Benjamin Parker of Waterloo; eight great-grandchildren, Caitlynn Parker, Dalton Parker, Brandton Parker, Ian Heimann, Gabrielle Heimann, Arwen Heimann, Coby Parker and Avri Parker; and a sister Glida Wisner of South Bend.

He was preceded in death by a son, Greg Wisner; son-in-law, Ron Parker; a sister Marie Masterson; and three brothers, Jim, Claude and Don Wisner.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday July 2, 2011, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, with the Rev. Steven Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with military honors by the Butler American Legion Post # 202. Calling is today from 4 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday.

Memorials can be directed to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Mary Rench

AUBURN — Mary O. Rench, 89, of Auburn died Thursday, June 29, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Rench worked as an operator and clerk for the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in Auburn for 38 years, retiring in 1978.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. She was also a member of the DeKalb County Historical Society.

She was a volunteer with the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Guild's Curiosity Shop and for the DeKalb County Humane Society.

She was born Jan. 9, 1922, in Auburn to Clinton and Grace (Lockwood) Griffin.

She married John D. Rench on Jan. 14, 1989, in Auburn.

Surviving are a stepdaughter, Jill Byer of Indianapolis; a step son, David Rench of Fort Wayne; two step grandchildren; a nephew, Carl Griffin of Rochester Hills, Mich.; and two cousins, June (Joe) Mason of Greentown and Pat Rohrer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Robert Miller, Lafayette Blue and John Rench; and a cousin, Erma Lothamer.

Services will be at 3 p.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Calling will be 1 hour prior to the service from 2-3 p.m. today.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Dedicated to her country

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

HUDSON — Carol Tilbury dedicated her life to her country, serving it faithfully until she was injured, and passing down the same sense of service to her children.

Mrs. Tilbury, 76, of Hudson, died June 1 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Tilbury was born April 12, 1935, in Fort Wayne to Harry E. and Evelyn M. (Hollenbeck) Fultz. The family moved to Salem Center, near Hudson, when she was 12 years old.

At age 23, Tilbury decided she wanted to see more of the world, said her daughter, Kay Humphrey. Tilbury enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was worked as a typist in Norfolk, Va., during the Korean conflict.

"From everything I understood, she wanted to see as much of the world as possible, and she thought serving her country would be a good way to do it," Humphrey said.

Humphrey said her mother didn't prefer typing, but enjoyed the physical aspect of the military. She noted her mother actually wanted to work as a gym teacher.

Tilbury's son, Bob Tilbury, said the physical nature of the military took its toll on his mother. She injured her knee in 1954 during a calisthenics exercise. She received her honorable discharge in 1954 and returned to Salen Center, where she married her high school sweetheart, Ervin Tilbury, in 1955.

The couple raised five children and taught them to respect their country, said Bob Tilbury. On the Fourth of July and Memorial Day, in addition to attending traditional fireworks celebrations and parades, Bob Tilbury said his mother understood the holidays' real meaning.

"She insisted that all of us kids stand up and salute the soldiers out o

"Our mother taught us to be thankful for where you lived, and the freedom soldiers fight for"

Bob Tilbury

respect," Bob Tilbury said. "We stood there with our hands over our hearts as (soldiers) walked by in the parades."

Mrs. Tilbury's children made service to their country a part of their lives. Her oldest son, Eugene, served in the Air Force. Her oldest daughter married a member of the Air Force, as well. Her son, Rick, joined the SeeBees, and Bob Tilbury served in the Navy for more than eight years. Humphrey entertained the thought of joining the Navy, also, and even passed the entrance exam.

"Our mother taught us to be thankful for where you lived, and the freedom soldiers fight for," Bob Tilbury said. "She felt if you take care of your country, it will take care of you."

One way of doing so was to vote. Mrs. Tilbury was a staunch advocate of voting and made it clear to her children voting was not only a right, but a civic duty, said Humphrey. Mrs. Tilbury voted in every election she was eligible for, Bob Tilbury said, even when she couldn't see to read the ballot in the last election.

"I don't think she ever missed a vote," Bob Tilbury said. "She said if you didn't vote, you had no right to complain about anything."

Mrs. Tilbury felt it important to preserve her role in history, and in 2001 she recorded a personal

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Carol Tilbury, right, stands with her husband, Ervin, near their Hudson home. Mrs. Tilbury was a U.S. Marine Corps Korean conflict veteran.

narrative of her war experience in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. The DVD of her account sits in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Bob Tilbury said his mother also donated her Marines dress uniform to the World War II Victory Museum of the National Military History Center — complete down to the last button.

"They were so thankful for (the uniform donation), because they had never seen a female Marine's dress uniform from the Korean conflict era," Bob Tilbury said. "She was proud of her service to this country."

Charles Simcox

GARRETT — Charles F. Simcox, 88, died Saturday, July 2, 2011, at his home in Garrett.

Mr. Simcox was a conductor for the B&O Railroad and then for the CSX Railroad for 42 years, retiring in 1984. He also served for 12 years as the Keyser Township Trustee in Garrett.

Mr. Simcox

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving during World War II.

He was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett. He was also a member of the Garrett American Legion Club, Garrett Masonic Lodge, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne Shrine Club, Garrett Elks, and the Loyal Order of the Moose in Kendallville.

He was born Dec. 12, 1922, in Garrett, to Harry G. and Pearl H. (Workman) Simcox.

He married Phyllis R. Breseke on Feb. 7, 1948, in Fort Wayne. She passed away May 29, 2006.

Surviving are a daughter, Jody McKinley of Auburn; four grandchildren, William, Charles, and Kristin O'Hara, and Michael Cooper; and a great-grandson, Connor O'Hara

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a sister, Kathryn Ice, and a stepbrother, Patrick O'Brien.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Brother Bud Owen officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with military graveside services being conducted by the U.S. Army and the Garrett American Legion.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Shriners Hospital.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Mary Harden

BUTLER — Mary A. Harden, 64, died Friday, July 1, 2011, at her daughter's home in Columbia City. She was born on Oct. 10, 1946, in Fort Wayne to Richard and Marcile (Baumgartner) Saylor.

She retired from Magnavox in Auburn.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, James and Holly Cumings of Butler and Donald and Ronni Cumings of Butler; two daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Kevin Bowen of Washington, Ind., and Donna and Jason Wood of Columbia City; a brother, Charles "Butch" Saylor of New Haven; a sister Cecile "CB" Curry of Columbia City; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Arlene Cook and Joan Fulkerson, and a granddaughter.

Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe, with Chaplain Britney Sloffer of Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home officiating. Calling is Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

STAR
JULY 5 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Michael Allen

WABASH — Michael Scott Allen, 35, of Vernon Manor Children's Home, Wabash, passed away at 9:45 p.m. Saturday, July 2, 2011 at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was born on Dec. 26, 1975 in Auburn to Donald and Midge (Biggerstaff) Allen. He was a member of the Hudson United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his parents, Donald and Midge Allen of Linville Falls, N.C.; a sister, Jean (Robert) Walker of Ingalls, Ind.; a brother and partner, Daniel Allen and Jory Edmunds of Austin, Texas; a grandmother, Rowena Biggerstaff of Waterloo, Ind.; and many aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lawrence Biggerstaff and Wendell and Ruth Allen.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, with calling two hours prior to services at the funeral home. Pastor Rick Taylor will officiate. Burial will follow in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Pleasant Lake, Ind.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given Vernon Manor Children's Home, 1955 S. Vernon St., Wabash IN 46992.

Condolences may be sent online at www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Billy McKnight

BUTLER — Billy E. McKnight, 52 years, of Butler, died suddenly Monday, July 4, 2011, at the emergency room of DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn, Indiana.

Billy was born August 26, 1958, in Port Clinton, Ohio, to Billy and Patricia (Skeens) McKnight. He was a 1976 graduate of Hamilton High School.

He married Karen K. Ward on January 9, 1999, in Hamilton, Indiana. Billy worked at Pent in Hamilton. He then worked at Universal Tool in Butler. Billy then obtained his CDL and drove for Atkins Trucking in Hamilton and for Evans Trucking in Butler. He then worked for Chuck Howard Farms, assisting in farming. An avid NASCAR race fan, Billy formerly raced stock cars at Angola, Bryan, Avilla and Oak Shade race tracks. He later became involved in go-kart racing, supporting his kids, Josh and Marie.

Surviving are his wife, Karen of Butler; six children, Josh McKnight of Butler, Marie McKnight and her fiancé Ricky Dukes of Kokomo, Indiana, Kris Moritz of Germany, Bobbie Ingol of Fort Wayne, Yvonne (Steve) Tonneas of Hicksville and Jim (Rhonda) Burnett of Auburn; 12 grandchildren, Lily and Hayden McKnight, Natasha, Dominique and Leah Tonneas, Ryan and Randy Smith, Raven, Reagan, Riley and Roman Ingol and Logan Burnett; his mother, Patricia McKnight of Hamilton; two brothers, Charles D. McKnight of Hamilton and Terry L. (Becky) McKnight of Butler; two sisters, Dianna (Dale) Lybarger of Hamilton and Faye McKnight. He was preceded in death by his father, Billy, on November 12, 1995.

Visitation for Billy E. McKnight will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011 from 2-8 p.m. at the Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, 3985 East Church Street, Hamilton. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, July 8, 2011 at the Hamilton Church of Christ with Pastor Jeff Alexander officiating. Interment will follow in Hamilton Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider contributions to the Hamilton Church of Christ.

Condolences may be sent to the family, or the online guest book may be signed at www.oberlinturnbull.com.

Harold Kline

KENDALLVILLE — Harold Lee Kline, 72, of Kendallville, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center.

Mr. Kline

Mr. Kline was born in Kendallville on Oct. 15, 1938, to Robert H. and Rosalie A. (Cunningham) Kline.

He served his country in the United States Navy from 1957-1966 and was a member of the American Legion Post 86 and the VFW Post 2749, both in Kendallville.

He married Jacquilin Ione Kotterman on Aug. 4, 1981, at the South Milford Church of Christ near South Milford.

Harold was a railroad engineer and he loved his work on the railroad. He was employed for 27 years with CSX in Garrett.

Harold loved getting together with his family and especially enjoyed spending time with his grandkids.

He attended the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Rome City.

Survivors include his wife, Jacquilin "Jackie" (Kotterman) Kline of Kendallville; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gerald and Tina Kline of Auburn and Harold Kline of Garrett; three daughters and a son-in-law, Cathy Kline Carson of Albion, Julie and Steve Blankenship of Kendallville and Jeanie Potts of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Nathan and Megan Kline, Caleb and Holly Blankenship and Skylar Potts; two brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Nancy Kline of Kendallville and Fred and Deb Kline of Kendallville; and four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Jean and Warren Poage of Kendallville, Sharon and Keith Rhodes of Riverside, Calif.; Betty and Dick Ramsey of Chico, Calif., and Debbie Meyer of Warsaw.

A celebration of Harold's life will be Friday at noon at Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Rome City with Pastor Steve Herendeen officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

A private burial of cremated remains will take place at a later date at Lakeview Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred Memorials may be made to Jackie Kline to help her with on-going living expenses.

Condolences may be sent to the family or a video tribute of Harold viewed by Thursday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
JULY 6 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dr. Merle Young

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Dr. Merle L. Young, of Hillsdale, Mich., passed away on Monday, July 4, 2011 at the age of 72.

Dr. Young

He was born Jan. 30, 1939, in Auburn, Indiana the son of Wellington and Maurine (Kuhn) Young.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce A. Young, whom he married on Dec. 24, 1960; five children, Sheri (Tim) Belson of Reading, Mich., Kurt Young of Fort Wayne, Darin (Emily) Young of Jonesville, Mich., Lana (Rob) Ranahan of Anderson and Chad Young of Hillsdale; one daughter-in-law, Mary Beth Young of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; one brother, Robert (Teresa) Young of Butler; two sisters, Janet (Russell) Mitchner of Pleasant Lake and Melva Carnahan of Kissimmee, Fla.; one brother-in-law, Jim (Gail) Rodenbeck of Kendallville; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one grandson, Matthew Belson, and one brother-in-law, Ed Carnahan.

Dr. Young served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1957-1960. He graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic and worked as a Chiropractor in Hillsdale and Jonesville for 42 years. He was a member of the N.R.A. and a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Engine and Tractor Association, as well as many other tractor clubs.

He enjoyed his favorite hobbies, which were hunting, shooting sports, working as a gunsmith, antique tractor restoration and playing the steel guitar.

A funeral service to honor the life of Dr. Merle L. Young will be held at New Hope United Brethren Church, 5071 W. Montgomery Rd., Camden, Mich., on Friday, beginning at 11 a.m., with Pastor Bill Case and Pastor Don Gentry officiating. Cremation will follow the service.

The family will receive

Dr. Merle Young

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Mr. Young

He was born Jan. 30, 1939, in Auburn, Indiana the son of Wellington and Maurine (Kuhn) Young.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce A. Young, whom he married on Dec. 24, 1960; five children, Sheri (Tim) Belson of Reading, Mich., Kurt Young of Fort Wayne, Darin (Emily) Young of Jonesville, Mich., Lana (Rob) Ranahan of Anderson and Chad Young of Hillsdale; one daughter-in-law, Mary Beth Young of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; one brother, Robert (Teresa) Young of Butler; two sisters, Janet (Russell) Mitchner of Pleasant Lake and Melva Carnahan of Kissimmee, Fla.; one brother-in-law, Jim (Gail) Rodenbeck of Kendallville; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one grandson, Matthew Belson, and one brother-in-law, Ed Carnahan.

Dr. Young served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1957-1960. He graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic and worked as a Chiropractor in Hillsdale and Jonesville for 42 years. He was a member of the N.R.A. and a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Engine and Tractor Association, as well as many other tractor clubs.

He enjoyed his favorite hobbies, which were hunting, shooting sports, working as a gunsmith, antique tractor restoration and playing the steel guitar.

A funeral service to honor the life of Dr. Merle L. Young will be held at New Hope United Brethren Church, 5071 W. Montgomery Rd., Camden, Mich., on Friday, beginning at 11 a.m., with Pastor Bill Case and Pastor Don Gentry officiating. Cremation will follow the service.

The family will receive friends for visitation at the Hampton-Kurtz Funeral Home in Hillsdale today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friends who wish may make memorial contributions to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots or to the family.

Lana Smith

ANGOLA — Lana K. (Walter) Smith, 64, died Wednesday July 6, 2011, at her home.

She was born on April 10, 1947, in Auburn to the late George R. and Esther (Spires) Walter.

Mrs. Smith

She was a member of the Flint United Methodist Church and worked at Electri-Tec in Angola for 10 years.

She married James P. Smith Sr. on June 26, 1965, in Angola and he preceded her in death on Feb. 5, 2009.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Zachary J. Smith of Bloomington and James P. (Regina) Smith Jr. of Angola, three brothers, Roger Walter of Indianapolis, Larry Walter of Spencerville and Jerry Walter of Auburn; one sister, Pamela Gibson of Hicksville, Ohio; and a grandson, Hunter Smith of Angola.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Jeffery Smith.

Services for Mrs. Smith will be on Monday at noon at the H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West Street, Angola. Pastor John F. Cohrs of the Flint United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will take place in Circle Hill Cemetery, Angola.

Visitation will be Sunday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home and also one hour prior to services on Monday.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To leave condolences or to sign the guestbook, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Rosalyn Wilcox

ANGOLA — Rosalyn Marie (Wagoner) Wilcox.

On July 3, 2011, at 9:30 p.m., one of the most amazing women who walked the earth was called home. No matter if you called her wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother or just friend, she touched a part of your life with her kindness, her generosity and her willingness to help, no matter whom or what the issue was she gave even if she had nothing left to give. Her heart was bigger than any ocean. She took in anyone who needed help getting on their feet, whether it was family or friend. She loved country music and she loved to dance. She loved cook-outs in the park with her family — any kind of get-together. She was always cooking up something delicious in the kitchen and there was seldom a garage sale that didn't catch her eye. But her greatest catch was 21 years ago when she met the love of her life, Larry Douglas Wilcox, and they were married on June 24, 1999, together no matter what 'till the end and beyond.

Mrs. Wilcox

She was born June 26, 1945, to Donald and Catherine Wagoner in Toledo, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Catherine Wagoner; a daughter, Tereasa Bussing; and two grandchildren, Donavon Green and Tommy Bussing.

Surviving her is her beloved husband, Larry Douglas Wilcox; children, Wendy and Bob Catterall of Angola, Bobbie and Ron Leland of Garrett, Sheila and John Sheets of Edon, Ohio, Veronica and Paul Winchester (Sessford) of Oakwood, Ohio, Donald Mark Anthony Sessford of Fremont, Christy and Thad Frederick of Angola, Tiki (Bussing) Wilcox of Angola and many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by many.

A memorial service and dinner will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at 1 p.m. at the American Legion in Angola.

You may sign the guestbook at www.weichtfh.com.

Arrangements are being handled by the Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

Beverly Mortimore

KENDALLVILLE — Beverly Joan "Grandma B" Mortimore, 85, of Kendallville, passed quietly with her family at her side Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 5:15 p.m. in the home that she and her husband built 60 years ago.

Mrs. Morimore

Mrs. Mortimore was a lifetime area resident. She and her husband wintered in Myrtle Beach, Fla., for 18 years near the ocean she loved.

Beverly was the assistant manager for G.C. Murphy Company in Kendallville for 50 years.

She was a 74-year member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville and the ladies auxiliary of VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville.

Her hobbies included bird watching, working in the yard, crossword puzzles and reading. She always had a jigsaw puzzle she was working on, and she enjoyed being in the kitchen. But, her entire life revolved around those she loved the most, which included her husband of 66 years who was the love of her life, her daughter and son-in-law, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She especially enjoyed being together with family in the home she and Jack shared with their daughter and son-in-law.

Grandma B was frequently seen in town driving her little blue VW bug. She was always active and felt that if you rest, you rust.

She was born Nov. 24, 1925, in Kendallville to Otis and Wynona (Baughman) Hinkley. On April 14, 1945, in Garrett she married Jack H. Mortimore. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and David Bryant of Kendallville; three granddaughters, Rhonda Black of Fort Wayne, Cecelee and Chad Shuck of South Milford, and her namesake, Beverly Bryant and her companion, John Crover, of Huntertown; three great-grandchildren, Joel David Busche, Bryant Walter-Shuck, and Hannah Marie Black; a sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Bill Smith of Columbia City; and her beloved dog and companion, Bailey.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Mary Ellen Patterson and Helen Borst.

There will be no calling or services. A private funeral service will be held by the family.

Preferred memorials in Beverly's name may be directed to Parkview Noble Hospice or the Boomerang Backpack Program. Envelopes are available at or you may mail contributions to Young Family Funeral Home.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Dolores Arnold

AVILLA — Dolores Madge Arnold, 89, died, Friday, July 8, 2011, at IU Health Goshen Hospital.

She was a lifelong resident of Avilla and only came to live at Life Care Center in LaGrange over the past several years. She was a graduate of Avilla High School and worked as a receptionist for Dr. D.L. White's office. She was also a member of the Avilla First United Methodist Church.

She was born on March 11, 1922, in DeKalb County to David and Ella (Gordon) Stonestreet.

On Sept. 10, 1940, she married Kenneth R. Arnold in Garrett. He preceded her in death on Sept. 13, 2001.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lola Rogers of North Potomic, Md.; Sarah Arnold-Gambi and Roberto Gambi of La Hupe, Belgium; Celeste and James Niles of Burlington, New Jersey; two sons and daughters-in-law, Daniel and Lisa Arnold of Kendallville; and Mont and Constance Arnold of LaGrange; 16 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, a sister, Joan Bolton of Avilla, and a brother, Mike Stonestreet of West Worth, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a sister, Barbara Rider.

Cremation is taking place and a memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Memorials are to the Avilla First United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be left at www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Excited to do God's work

Marcella Long was social worker, counselor, minister

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

ALBION — She had a great love of God and the abused, neglected and abandoned people He brought to her attention.

That was Marcella Jean Long's life work as a social worker, counselor and minister, helping those in need of someone to first listen and then offer advice and support.

"Marcella was excited that God had called her to do this work," said Sherri Long, Mrs. Long's sister-in-law. "Believe me when I say excited. When she felt the Lord pulling her to people or a project, she threw herself into it, and that excitement was very contagious."

Mrs. Long, 71, of Albion and formerly of Kendallville, died June 17, 2011, in North Ridge Village in Albion.

She helped thousands of people with life's challenges.

"Mom loved us and her grandchildren," said her daughters, Kristin Hampshire and Julie Hobbs. Even though she didn't live close to them the last several years of her life, she called her daughters every day. "That's something we really miss, those daily calls," said Hampshire and Hobbs.

Her granddaughter, Aubrey Hampshire, said her grandmother helped people when they needed it most and never expected anything in return. She remembered how her grandmother granted her endless hours of adventure. "If we wanted to play school, she supplied the paper and books. When we wanted to build a fort, she offered an unused pile of bricks."

Mrs. Long was born April 15, 1940, in Noble County to Edgar Ray and Mae Leona (Addis) Long. On July 1, 1984, in Noble County she married Charles Max Hoover. He preceded her in death on April 27, 2005.

"She ministered her whole life by taking common, everyday activities to meet people where they were."

Sherri Long
Sister-in-law of Marcella Long

After graduating from Kendallville High School, she went on to college to earn a master's degree in social work and counseling. Mrs. Long established the social work department at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, where she was a professor and head of the department.

"Marcella was highly regarded by her colleagues for establishing the department," said Bill Blanks, a family counselor in Fort Wayne. "She was well-respected in her field."

In her spare time, Mrs. Long loved to sew and make hats. She designed hats of all shapes and colors and with all kinds of decoration.

"Hats were how she opened the door to talk about the love of God," said Sherri Long, minister for Wayne Center United Methodist Church north of Kendallville. "She used to say to us that hats are a covering that we wear to protect ourselves from the elements, just like Jesus covers and protects us from the things we can get into."

Making hats was her way to reach out to others in Christian love, family members she loved and those she counseled.

"She ministered her whole life by taking common, everyday activities to meet people where they were," said Sherri Long.

Music was another way Mrs. Long connected with people. She loved to sing and was a member of the Wayne Center United Methodist Church at one time.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Marcella Long

"Our time together was always full of songs and stories," Hampshire said.

Marcella could spark up the atmosphere when she entered a room, a conversation or an activity. She loved flowers. She loved gardens.

"She embraced life with excitement and great anticipation. Even knowing her time was short, she continued to be involved with living life to the fullest," said Sherri Long.

She loved ministering to others. She devoted her life to helping others through teaching and ministry, said Hampshire. Mrs. Long was a minister the last 25 years of her life. Her Bible was worn. She wrote in the margins and highlighted the passages of praise and thanksgiving for all her blessings.

"That's the legacy Marcella left for all of us and for those she ministered to," said Sherri Long.

STAR
JULY 10 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Doris Lechleidner

BUTLER — Doris E. Lechleidner, 93 died Friday, July 8, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Lechleidner

She was born July 15, 1917, in Hamilton to James and Daisy (Earlsten) Harger.

She worked at Universal Tool in Butler for 26 years before retiring in 1977.

She was a member of the Spencerville Eastern Star, Butler American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Butler Eagles, Auburn Moose Lodge and the Hamilton Fish and Game Club. She loved to play euchre.

Doris married Lawrence Lechleidner on Dec. 12, 1936, in Angola and he died in 1985.

She is survived by a son and two daughters-in-law, Darwin and Carol Lechleidner of Butler and Sandy Lechleidner of Butler; seven grandchildren, Steven (Yolanda) Lechleidner, Michael (Lisa) Lechleidner, Kevin Lechleidner, Janine (Jon) Zehr, Kirk (Laura) Lechleidner, Angela Lechleidner and Melisa Lechleidner; 10 great-grandchildren, 11 stepgreat-grandchildren; 7 stepgreat-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son, Shurl Lechleidner, longtime friend Chester Osbun, six sisters and five brothers.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Rev. Mike Halferty officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling is Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Beverly Mortimore

KENDALLVILLE — Beverly Joan "Gramma B" Mortimore, 85, of Kendallville, passed quietly with her family at her side Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 5:15 p.m. in the home that she and her husband built 60 years ago.

Mrs. Mortimore was a lifetime area resident. She and her husband wintered in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for 18 years near the ocean she loved.

Mrs. Mortimore

Beverly was the assistant manager for G.C. Murphy Company in Kendallville for 50 years.

She was a 74-year member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville and the ladies auxiliary of VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville.

Her hobbies included bird watching, working in the yard, crossword puzzles and reading. She always had a jigsaw puzzle she was working on, and she enjoyed being in the kitchen. But, her entire life revolved around those she loved the most, which included her husband of 66 years who was the love of her life, her daughter and son-in-law, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She especially enjoyed being together with family in the home she and Jack shared with their daughter and son-in-law.

Gramma B was frequently seen in town driving her little blue VW bug. She was always active and felt that if you rest, you rust.

She was born Nov. 24, 1925, in Kendallville to Otis and Wynona (Baughman) Hinkley. On April 14, 1945, in Garrett she married Jack H. Mortimore. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and David Bryant of Kendallville; three granddaughters, Rhonda Black of Fort Wayne, Cecelee and Chad Shuck of South Milford, and her namesake, Beverly Bryant and her companion, John Crover, of Huntertown; three great-grandchildren, Joel David Busche, Bryant Walter-Shuck, and Hannah Marie Black; a sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Bill Smith of Columbia City; and her beloved dog and companion, Bailey.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Mary Ellen Patterson and Helen Borst.

There will be no calling or services. A private funeral service will be held by the family.

Preferred memorials in Beverly's name may be directed to Parkview Noble Hospice or the Boomerang Backpack Program. Envelopes are available at or you may mail contributions to Young Family Funeral Home.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Rev. Jimmie Olinske

ANGOLA — Rev. Jimmie Lee Olinske, 69, of Glenpool, Okla., and formerly of Angola, died Sunday, July 10, 2011, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Okla.

Rev. Olinske had been a minister at Ray Community Church and at the Calvary Worship Center in Marion, retiring in 2004. He also had been a lab technician at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola and at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Rev. Olinske graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of CMI International.

He was born April 8, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Robert G. and Mary (Smola) Olinske. He married Marilyn Courtnay on Aug. 24, 1963. She survives in Glenpool.

Also surviving are a son, Scott (Jennifer) Olinske of Jenks, Okla.; two daughters, Lanette (Joseph) Martindale of Boulder, Colo., and Jamie Olinske of Arlington, Texas; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Thelma Olinske, in 1953; and a brother, Jerry Olinske, in 2009.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola, with the Rev. Dennis L. Kutzner officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Dream Center, 200 W. 46th St. North, Tulsa, OK 74106.

Sign a guest book at www.weichtfh.com.

STAR
JULY 12 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Nancy Sommers

WATERLOO — Nancy A. Sommers, 75, of Waterloo died Monday, July 11, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born December 18, 1935 in Celina, Ohio, to Herschel C. and Neoma L. (Bailey) Daugherty.

She worked as a Lab Technician for 6 years at St. Joe Hospital in Fort Wayne then as an Administrative Secretary at Northern Indiana Fuel and Light in Auburn for 2 years then worked 18 years as a secretary at Tri-State University in Angola until her retirement in 1998.

Mrs. Sommers

Nancy was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church where she served as the grade school pianist, taught 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school and held several offices in United Methodist Women's group.

She belonged to the Country Charm Home Extension Club, Red Hat Honey "Beas", Waterloo Kitchen Band and DeKalb County Democratic Women's organization.

She enjoyed playing Bridge, Euchre, the piano and accordion but what she loved the most was spending time with family, friends and especially her best friend and husband, Cliff.

She married Clifford C. Sommers on July 2, 1955, in the Methodist Church in Rockford, Ohio, and he passed away Oct. 15, 2009.

She is survived by 3 sons, Jonathan "Jon" C. Sommers of Derby, Kansas, Scott A. (Robin) Sommers of New Lenox, Illinois and Todd M. (Bonnie) Sommers of Auburn; a grandchild, Jamie L. Sommers of New Lenox, Illinois; and a sister, Marilyn J. (Rick) Giere of Celina, Ohio.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 16, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S, Wayne St,, Waterloo, with the Rev. David Mathews and the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

Burial will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Riverside Cemetery in Rockford, Ohio.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Cystic Fibrosis.

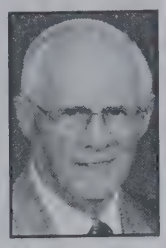
Serving as Pall Bearers will be Jon Sommers, Scott Sommers, Todd Sommers, Greg Owens, Bob Brewer, Brett Farwerck and Matt Farwerck.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
JULY 14 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Charles Bassett

AUBURN — Charles F. Bassett, 86, of Auburn died Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.



Mr. Bassett

Mr. Bassett received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Indiana University and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Arizona.

He began his career in education as a teacher at Brazil, Ind., followed by Avilla and then Shipshewana-Scott Schools. He then became Principal at Wolf Lake in Noble County and Assistant Principal at Argos School in Marshall County. He returned to teaching at Waterloo and then finished his last 20 years as a Math teacher and Guidance Counselor at DeKalb High School and Middle Schools until his retirement in 1987.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Auburn and was a member of the men's group of the church. He was involved with many United Methodist Mission work trips during his retirement.

He served as an adult leader for the Waterloo Rascals 4-H Club for 10 years.

He also loved farming and was actively involved in the Bassett Family Farm. He always enjoyed his gardening and vacation travels with family and friends.

He was born March 12, 1925, in Scott, Ind., in LaGrange County to Ralph E. and Wreta L. (Hagerty) Bassett.

He married Loann L. Hollopeter on Aug. 27, 1955. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, Jeff (Susan) Bassett of Howe, Ind., and Dean (Kim) Bassett of Scott, Ind.; a daughter, Lori Bassett (Laura DeWitt) of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Kylee (Jack) Hope, Kurt Bassett, and Karen Basset; a stepgrandson, Lucas Neuerburg; a great-grandson, Paxton Hope; three sisters, Martha Lou (Robert) Lee of LaGrange, Marilyn (David) Anderson of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Elaine (Paul) Kronewitter of Rolling Prairie, Ind.: and brother and sisters-in-law, David Holly of Fort Wayne, and Myrna and Gerald Harkenrider of Springfield, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Charlotte Miller and Jane Eash.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 18, 2011, at Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Auburn First United Methodist Church for Missions.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Marvin Hanson

MADRID, Iowa — Marvin Edward Hanson (Marv, to many, Uncle Bud to his extended family), 90 years of age, a resident of the Madrid Home, but formerly of Boone, passed away at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 8, 2011. He was a native of Auburn, Indiana, born on January 16, 1921, to Mary Icey (Hodgden) Hanson and Claude Francis Hanson.

Mr. Hanson

Marvin moved to Boone with his family in 1967 when he accepted a position as Guidance Counselor in the United Community School District. He attended the First United Methodist Church in Boone for many years, singing in and, for a time, conducting the Chancel Choir.

At the same time he remained a member of the Church of the Brethren throughout his life, and continued his support of that church and it's mission of peace advocacy until his death. Along with many other members of the Church of the Brethren, his pacifist beliefs led him to be a conscientious objector during the war years, and to participate in alternative service working in agriculture, and then providing care to patients in the Fairfield State Hospital in Connecticut.

He attended Manchester College in Indiana before World War II and, after the war, finished his music education degree at McPherson College in Kansas, the home state of his new bride, Mary Katherine (Lowe) Hanson. He began his career in Jewell City, Kansas teaching band and choir. Except for a brief period of study at Bethany Seminary in Chicago, he continued to teach music, ending that part of his work-life as the school band director in Prairie City, Iowa in 1967.

During the last few summers of his music career, Marvin was moonlighting as a graduate student at Iowa State University where he was preparing for a new phase. He retired in 1983 as a guidance counselor in both the United Community and Central Webster school districts. He also served part time as a counselor at the Boone Campus of DMACC.

One of Marvin's longtime passions was his membership in, and later support for the Boone Municipal Band. He began that affiliation as a baritone player in 1969, continuing to play in the ensemble well into the 1980s. Even after his "chops" gave out, he seldom missed a concert. He was an enthusiastic audience member until recent years when he could no longer drive back to his Madrid Home apartment after dark.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary; his parents; and three older sisters, Ruth, Florence and Martha.

He is survived by his two children, Claudia Hanson of Washington, D.C., and Jeffrey Bell-Hanson of Tacoma, Washington, as well as their spouses, Sonny Baron and Karen Bell-Hanson.

Memorial services will be held at First United Methodist Church in Boone on July 19 at 11 a.m. and at the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in Garrett, Indiana, on July 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to First United Methodist Church in Boone, Iowa.

Sharilyn Greenfield

ST. JOE — Sharilyn D. Greenfield, 74, died Friday, July 15, 2011, at her home in St. Joe.

Mrs. Greenfield worked for Bertch Vending for six years and then was a bus driver for the DeKalb Central School System for eight years, retiring in 1998. She was a member of the St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe and the Women of the Church. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star of St. Joe.

Mrs. Greenfield

She was a great fan of Purdue University and Indiana University.

She was born Sept. 10, 1936, in Garrett, to Morris E. and Cleatus C. (Thompson) Haynes.

Surviving are two daughters, Kim A. Scouten of Auburn, and Karla A. Fry of Auburn; a son, Kelly A. Wallace of St. Joe; six grandchildren and spouses, Jason and Lindsay Wilson, Adam Scouten, Ryan and Jamie Wallace, Corey and Jennie Wallace, Chanda Wallace, and Landon Myers; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Henry A. Greenfield; and a brother, Robert E. Haynes.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter or the St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
JULY 17 2011 Auburn, Indiana

'She brought one-on-one loving care'

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — In her casket, Frances E. Terrell's family and friends placed a stuffed animal that was a puppy to show how much she loved all creatures and a margarita glass and Tootsie Rolls to express her zest for life.

Fran, of Hamilton, died June 21, 2011, at Cameron Community Hospital in Angola after a long bout with cancer.

She was born in Fort Wayne Nov. 7, 1946, and lived there most of her life. In 1995, she moved to Hamilton with her family.

Her husband, Gary, and best friend, Margo Phillips, recalled Fran as being a friend to everyone she came in contact with and a special nurse.

Gary knew Fran since they were children. The couple dated through high school and married right before Gary enlisted in the Marine Corps. Since that time, they have been virtually inseparable, spending everyday together the last few years.

"She had been around so many people clinging to life," Gary said. "Fran said she never wanted any heroic measures to keep her alive."

Fran battled breast cancer nine years earlier, then contracted lung cancer. She endured chemotherapy and radiation. Even in her weakest moments, Fran comforted her husband. "She raised her hand and patted me on the back. She wanted me to go on," Gary said.

Gary said his wife was brave and wasn't afraid to speak her mind. "She was strong. She stood up to doctors and would call them in the middle of the night if she didn't agree with them," he said and in return, it got her respect.

Fran loved all animals.

Mrs. Terrell

"She said she could never live on a farm because all the cows would be clean," Phillips, who called her "Fancy," said. "I asked her, 'Fancy, what am I going to do without you?'"

Phillips met Fran when the pair worked at St. Joseph Hospital. Phillips recalled Fran once skipped supper to stay with a dying patient. The patient died. Fran asked Phillips to help her bathe the patient.

"She did everything so gently, putting lotion on the patient and a clean gown. While we were waiting for the funeral home, Fran told me no one should die alone. Whenever possible, her patients would leave the hospital clean and smelling good," Phillips said.

Gary said Fran adored animals, especially their mutts. "We have these two little chihuahuas, Sasha and Heidi. We brought them to the hospital when she wad dying. The dogs licked her," Gary said.

He recalled she picked up a garter snake once and remarked how cute it was. She also nursed a half-dead mouse back to health some cats had gotten hold of. In the last year, Fran wouldn't even kill spiders and instead took them outside for safeguarding.

Fran was a lifelong caregiver as a registered nurse in area hospitals, hospice, and nursing homes. She was at her best when helping others to cope with their suffering and fears. She was a patient advocate. In helping others, she prepared for her own death. "She brought one-on-one loving care," Gary said. "She was best with geriatric care."

Gary said he knew his wife was a great nurse by the numerous comments received from her co-workers over the years. "She was distraught by the fact that she had to leave nursing prematurely at the age of 59 because of health problems, but she knew her declining health as beginning to put her patients at risk. That's a risk she wasn't willing to accept," he said.

Fran simply loved cleaning everything. "In the hospital, if she was caught up she'd start cleaning the nurse's station," Phillips laughed. "She even washed Gary's tools and rust set in. She started spring cleaning in December and finished in February as a gift to Gary."

"Life became very precious, "Phillips said. "I had the honor of giving her her last bath. She was clean and she wanted that for her patients."

Fran survived by her husband of 45 years, Gary Terrell; her daughter, Melissa (Rod) Surbaugh of Bluffton; her son, Mark (Kristy) Terrell of Fort Wayne; and her brother, Harold McCard.

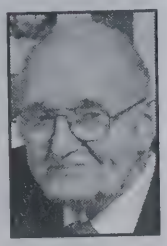
She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Betty McCard Sr., and a brother, Henry McCard Jr.

Burial was in Riverview Cemetery, Churubusco.

Memorials may be made to Cancer Services of NE Indiana or the SPCA.

Rev. Eugene Woolever

CORUNNA — Rev. Eugene W. Woolever, 84, of Corunna died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.



Rev. Woolever

Mr. Woolever worked for Kraft Foods in Kendallville for 18 years from 1966 until his retirement in 1984. Also in 1966, he began pastoring at Center Chapel United Methodist Church in Kendallville for 11 years then for Meese Chapel United Methodist Church in Auburn for 25 years. He was coordinator for the Northeast District United Methodist Work Camp. He also was a longtime farmer.

He was a member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and he was a 60-year member of Gideon's International.

He was born July 30, 1926, in DeKalb County to Leal and Nellie (Long) Woolever and they have both preceded him in death.

He married Anne "Christine" Conner on Sept. 6, 1947, and she died Jan. 15, 2000.

Surviving are four children and 13 grandchildren; Ruth Anne (Richard) Garrison of Kendallville and their children, David (Shelly) Garrison, John P. Garrison, Pamela (Gene) Garrison Engels and Tamela Garrison; Richard (Edith) Woolever of Waterloo and their children, Jennifer Woolever, Bartholomew Woolever, LouAnn Strack and Kenneth Woolever; John M. (Vickie) Woolever of Auburn and their children, Amanda (Travis) Aeschliman, Elizabeth Woolever and Ashley Woolever; Mary (John) Stapleton of Elkridge, Maryland, and their children, John E. Stapleton and Tim Stapleton. Also surviving are nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his sister and brother-in-law, Virginia and George Friend; and a grandson-in-law, Christopher Strack.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday July 21, 2011, at First Christian Church, 110 West Waits Road, Kendallville, IN 46755 with Dr. Thomas Clothier officiating. Burial in Sedan Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, Ind., and also 1 hour prior to the service Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials can be directed to Meese Chapel United Methodist Church or Gideon's International.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Bradley Kaiser

BUTLER — Bradley N. Kaiser, 48, of Butler died Sunday, July 17, 2011 in St. Joe.

Brad was a graduate of Eastside High School, class of 1981.

He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and loved hunting for mushrooms.

He worked as a welder for Nucor Building Systems in Waterloo.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler and the National Rifle Association.

He was born Dec. 9, 1962, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Tony and Lynn (Alexander) Kaiser. They survive in Butler.

Also surviving are two brothers and sisters-in-law, Gary and Lori Kaiser in Waterloo, and Rich and Debbie Kaiser of Butler; three nephews, Ryan Kaiser of Fort Wayne, Randy Kaiser of Butler, and Charlie Sexton of Waterloo; and a niece, Clare Sexton of Waterloo.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Jeff Alexander officiating.

The family will receive friends from 3-6 p.m. Wednesday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to a charity of the donor's choice.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.

K. Beth Drew

WATERLOO — K. Beth Drew, 91, of Waterloo died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Drew

Mrs. Drew was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in rural Waterloo.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1919, in Waterloo to Charley and Mary (Benjamin) Reinoehl.

She married Simeon Price Drew on July 29, 1939, in Angola. He died May 10, 1983.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Leon Charles and Carolyn Drew of Holland, Mich., and John Allen and Sherry Drew of Liberty, Ill.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Ellen and Con Slack of Escondido, Calif., and Mary McMillin of O'Fallon, Mo.; two sisters, Alice Berry of Ashley, and Nina Carter of Auburn; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; seven stepgreat-grandchildren; 10 stepgreat-great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; four brothers, Alva Reinoehl, Gene Reinoehl, Hubert Reinoehl and Everett Reinoehl; and a sister, Minnie Provines.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Steve Evans officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Margery Chapman

MURRIETA, Calif. — Margery Long Chapman, 89, of Murrieta died of heart failure Friday, July 8, 2011, in Murrieta.

Mrs. Chapman was a graduate of Butler High School and had been a resident of Butler, Ind., until 1960.

She was born Aug. 29, 1921, in Butler to Frank and Irma Long.

She married Lee Chapman of Spencer, Ind.

Surviving are two daughters, Marilyn Jo D'Archangelis of Fallbrook, Calif., and Jill Halley of San Clemente, Calif.

Harry Kelley

ANGOLA — Harry W. Kelley, 86, died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at Cameron Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Kelley

He was born October 31, 1924, in Goshen, Indiana, to Harry W. Kelley Sr. and Octavia Gire Kelley.

He graduated from Garrett High School in 1944, and then spent 30 months in the Navy Seabees during WWII. Upon his discharge, he graduated with a BA degree from Manchester College and then went on to receive a Master's Degree from Ball State.

Harry began his teaching career in Fremont and then coached and taught at Orland one year before returning to Fremont where he taught and coached athletics from 1952 to 1959. His basketball teams won numerous county tourneys, conference titles, and were sectional champs in 1956 and 1958 when it was one class basketball.

His baseball and track teams both won county titles and their conference twice. In 1959, Harry moved to Angola to teach and coach, and then became the Assistant Principal and athletic director. In 1973, he was appointed Principal of Angola High School, a position he held until retirement in 1987.

During his 28 years in the Angola School System, Mr. Kelley was active in educational groups and received many honors and awards. He served two terms on the state Principal's Legislative Committee, two three-year terms as District Two Executive Committee Representative to the State Principal's organization, was the chairman of the North Central visitation teams, and sat on the committee that organized the Assistant Principals of Indiana. He also served on the committee that organized the Athletic Directors Association of Indiana and in 1977 the Athletic Directors Association presented him with an Honorary Lifetime Pass — the first of its kind. Four times Mr. Kelley was named the top high school principal in his school's district. Upon Mr. Kelley's retirement, Gov. Robert Orr awarded him with the "Sagamore of the Wabash" — the highest honor bestowed upon a citizen in Indiana.

Harry was not only involved in the educational system, he was also a lifetime member of the International Association of Lions Clubs (local — Angola Lions Club and Land of Lakes Lions Club). In 1995, he was awarded the W.P. Woods Fellow and the Melvin Jones Fellow — the Lions highest award. Mr. Kelley was also a Sergeant in the Angola Police Reserves for 20 years, a member of the American Legion since 1943, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also a member of Angola United Methodist Church. In 2000, Mr. Kelley was inducted into the Garrett High School Wall of Fame and was honored by having a street in northeast Angola named for him.

Mr. Kelley loved history (especially early American and WWII), old movies, and people. He liked to drive, whether it be around town or to the West Coast. After retirement from MSD of Steuben County, he worked for Tyden Brammall as a driver. He truly enjoyed watching sports of all kinds. He appreciated the hard work the kids put in at practice and enjoyed watching their rewarding performances. This was especially true of his kids and grandkids.

Harry is survived by his wife, Shirley L. (Harding) Kelley, to whom he has been married for 59 years; two daughters, Denise Sue "Susie" (Scott) Poor of Angola, and Karen Lee (John) Ulmer of Camas, Washington; a son, Steven Craig (Beth) Kelley of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Tyler (Ann) Poor of Fort Wayne, Kyle, Eamon and Courtney Poor of Angola, Lauren (Luke) Hofmeyer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nick Kelley of Auburn, Ian and Lucas Ulmer of Camas, Washington; two sisters, Audrey Beaty of Angola and Linda Mann of Pleasant Lake; and Christine Kelley of Youngstown, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, William Kelley and Harold Kelley; a sister, Isabel Lung; and a nephew, John Kelley.

Funeral services will be Saturday, July 23, at 10 a.m. at Weicht's Funeral Home in Angola, with a military burial in Jamestown Cemetery. Calling is at the funeral home on Friday, July 22, from 1-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., with the Lions Club Memorial Service at 8 p.m.

The family would prefer memorial donations to the Steuben County Community Foundation for the Harry W. Kelley scholarship fund. Donations can be sent to: 1701 N. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703 or to www.steubenfoundation.org.

A guestbook may be signed at www.weichtfh.com.

Larry Kinney

FORT WAYNE — Larry T. Kinney, 74, of Fort Wayne, died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at Glenbrook Rehab.

Mr. Kinney was a communication officer for the Garrett Police Department for more than 20 years.

Born June 6, 1937, in Garrett, he was the son of Leo and Angela (Janikoski) Kinney.

Surviving are two sons, John Kinney and Christopher Kinney; two daughters, Tracy Hullinger and Kimberley Caba; and 13 grandchildren.

No services are planned.

Memorials are to the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana.

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Johnny Patton Jr.

AUBURN — Johnny Patton Jr., 30, of Auburn died Friday, July 15, 2011, at his residence.

Mr. Patton

Mr. Patton had attended Yuba College in California and worked for Staples in Auburn.

He was born Feb. 26, 1981, in Auburn.

Surviving are a son, Johnny Patton III of California; his mother and stepfather, Kathy Patton and Anthony Koch of Auburn; his father, Johnny Patton Sr. of Auburn; two brothers, Joshua (Melody Fisher) Patton of Elkhart and Anthony Koch of Butler; a sister, Amy (Nick) Mason of Auburn; and his grandparents, Ruth and Vitus Koch of Auburn.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service.

Memorials to the family.

To sign the online register book or to leave the family a condolence, visit www.pinningtonmccomb.com.

David Luttman

AVILLA — David A. Luttman, age 71, died on Sunday, July 17, 2011, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

He was born on January 16, 1940, in Garrett, Indiana, and was the son of Harold and Gaytha (Hinklin) Luttman.

He lived most of his life in Avilla and after many years of dedicated service he retired from the Town of Avilla in 2004.

He enjoyed fishing, motorcycles in his younger days, shopping and was known to be a hard worker.

Surviving are three brothers, Mike (Ursula) Luttman of Bremen, Harold "Jace" (Judy) Luttman of Fort Wayne, and Philip Luttman of Kendallville, and 11 nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ann Buckles.

Graveside services for Mr. Luttman will be today, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Corunna Cemetery in Corunna.

There will be no visitation or funeral service.

Please make memorials to the Avilla Parks Department.

Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Please go to brazzellfuneralhome.com to send online condolences or to sign the guest book.

John Gick

GARRETT — John E. Gick, 50, of Garrett died on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

A military graveside service conducted by the Garrett American Legion will take place on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

B. Almeda Brown

AUBURN — B. Almeda Brown, 85 of Auburn died Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Brown

She was born August 26, 1925, in Allen County to the late Christopher A. and Hazel E. (Wagner) Burns.

She was a homemaker, devoted mother and grandmother.

She was a member of New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo. She was a former member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and Calvary Temple where she was active in both churches as a Sunday School teacher. She was a former member of Pythian Sisters in Waterloo.

She married Cecil Ray Brown on August 26, 1945, in Tampa, Fla., and he died January 28, 2002.

Surviving are two sons, Roc (Carolyn) Brown of Waterloo and Lane (Reva) Brown of Fremont; a daughter, Aleta Brown of Auburn; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Cecil, a son Mark R. Brown, 4 brothers Wagner Burns, Clyde Burns, Christopher Burns, John R. Burns, 3 sisters Esther Yowell, Gwendalyne Ernest, Adalaide Myers.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, July 23, 2011 at New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo, with the Rev. Randy Stine officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and also one hour prior to the service Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Preferred memorials are to Steuben County Rescue Team.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

William Kock

GARRETT — William "Willie" R. Kock, 89, of Garrett died at 5:55 a.m. Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

Mr. Kock

Mr. Kock worked in the assembly area at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 36 years, retiring in 1982.

He was a WW II Navy veteran.

Mr. Kock was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett, the Garrett American Legion Post #178 and the VFW.

He was born Feb.1, 1922, in Garrett to Johnas and Amanda (Smelow) Kock. He married Dolores M. Soule on Aug. 6, 1949, in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Ron (Kathie) Kock of Auburn; four daughters, Sharon (Tom) Shafer of West Lafayette, Diane (Mike) Hanson of Indianapolis, Carol Easterday of Fort Wayne and Susie (Hulen) Branscum of Auburn; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers and five sisters.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, with military graveside honors by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Pamela King

AVILLA — Pamela King, age 48, of Avilla died on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. King

Pam was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, on October 27, 1962, to Alfred and Carolyn (Glidden) Gibbs.

She was a 1980 graduate of Beverly High School. She later graduated from Indiana Business College in Fort Wayne in 1991.

Pam married Jeffery D. King on April 26, 1985, in Beverly, Massachusetts. He preceded her in death on December 20, 2007.

She worked for AWS in Fort Wayne for 15 years. She was currently working at Home Depot in Auburn while attending school at Trine University in Fort Wayne. She was working on earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Pam was a very dedicated mother who lived for her children. She loved eating breakfast at the St. James Restaurant in Avilla.

Survivors include her mother, Carolyn Gibbs of Port St. Lucie, Florida; two daughters, Sarah King of Avilla and Hailey King of Avilla; one son; Alexander King of Avilla; two sisters; Diane and Dan Ryan of Stuart, Florida, and Linda and Michael Falco of Stuart, Florida; her father and mother-in-law, David and Pat King of Fort Wayne; a sister-in-law, Shawn Spindler of Fort Wayne; and many aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews

She was preceded in death by her father and her husband.

Visitation will be Monday, July 25, 2011, from 3-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at 1 p.m. at First Christian Church in Kendallville.

Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clothier.

Burial will be at Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Preferred memorials may be made to The Pam King Benefit Fund, Community State Bank, 802 Albion St., Avilla, IN 46710.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Pam by Monday, July 25, 2011, at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Mary Leavitt

FORT WAYNE — Mary "Scottie" Leavitt, 66, passed away on July 18, 2011.

She retired from UTC in Grabill and presently was a longtime and popular greeter at Walmart in Auburn.

She is survived by her longtime companion Garry Leavitt; a son, Garth (Amy) Leavitt; a daughter, Carmin (Steve) Synder; and her grandchildren, Jacob and Kendell Leavitt and Brenden and Barbara Snyder.

In lieu of a service of flowers, she asked that any gifts or memorials be made in the way of donations in her name to the Izaak Walton League of America, 17100 Griffin Road, Huntertown, IN 46748.

Midwest Funeral Home and Cremation Society is in charge of arrangements.

Travis Miller

WATERLOO — Travis Lee Miller, 31, of Waterloo died Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Center St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Waterloo/Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department.

A full obituary will appear in Saturday's edition.

Donald Galligher Sr.

AUBURN — Donald W. "Hubba" Galligher Sr., 82, of Auburn died Thursday, July 21, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mr. Galligher

Mr. Galligher worked as a OTR Truck Driver for Essex Wire in Columbia City for 37 years, retiring in 1991.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn. He was also a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose in Auburn, past member of Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler, past member of the Saddle Club, and past member of the Auburn Elks.

He was a true outdoorsman and an avid fisherman.

He was born in Allen County, Indiana, to Kennith W. and Marie I. (Fox) Galligher.

He married Patricia J. Cuney of Sept. 25, 1946, in Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, David and Peggy Galligher of Auburn, Jeffrey and Christina Galligher of Auburn, Gary Galligher of Waterloo, and Daniel and Shanon Galligher of Auburn; a daughter, Cyndy Galligher of Auburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Kay Galligher of Monroeville, and Gregory and Diane Galligher of Monroeville; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Dorothy and Walter "Mike" Michalec of Fort Wayne, and Phyllis and Jack Schoeph of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren, Carly Miller, Kevin Galligher, Jason Galligher, Tabatha Galligher, Justin Galligher, Michele O'Connor, Tate Galligher, Katrina Galligher, Don Galligher, Travis Furlow, and Tad Furlow; six great-grandchildren, Sierra Rowlett, Abby O'Connor, Allie O'Connor, Jake O'Connor, Kendon Galligher, and Korinne Galligher; and special friends, Greg and Ann White and their children, Carsten and Corbin White.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Jim Galligher and Donald W. Galligher Jr.; a granddaughter, Jenny Galligher; two brothers, Kennith Galligher and David Galligher; and a sister, Gloria Bouse.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with visitation from 9:30-10:30 a.m. prior to Mass. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating.

Visitation will also be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Travis Miller

WATERLOO — Travis Lee Miller, 31, of Waterloo died Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller was very proud of his work for the Waterloo/Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department.

He was born Dec. 2, 1979, in Angola.

He is survived by his wife, Amy of Waterloo; a daughter, Rebecca; his father Jerry of Waterloo; a sister and brother-in-law, Stacey and Max Fugate of Garrett; a niece, Sierra Bard of Waterloo; a nephew, Tyler Bard of Butler; and two great-nieces.

He was preceded in death his mother, Monica.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery. Pallbearers include Andrew Wilhelm, Tyler Weldon, Patrick Martin, Brian Sparkman, Dave Hubbartt, Steve Combs, Dennis Lockwood and Mike Long.

Calling will be from 2 -4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Waterloo/Grant Township Fire Department.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
JULY 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Christina Steward

AVILLA — Christina "Tina" Michelle Steward, 38 of Avilla, died on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at her residence.

Mrs. Steward

She was born August 25, 1972, in Auburn to Michael "Mick" and Coleen (DePew) Steward and they survive in Kendallville.

Tina was a 1990 graduate of Garrett High School. She was an order expediter at Courier in Kendallville.

Tina is also survived by her fiancé, Craig Brennan of Avilla; her daughter, Audrey Allen (Justin Barry) of Kendallville; son, Alex Brennan of Avilla; brother, Todd Steward (Lisa Utermark) of Garrett and a granddaughter, Kaytlin J. Barry of Kendallville.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Gutstein known for legendary work ethic and kindness

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Alfred Gutstein was delivered into the world in Kendallville by his father, Dr. Richard Gutstein, and was raised in the Noble County town by his prominent family.

A longtime attorney, Alfred Gutstein, 78, died June 28 at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne after an extended illness.

He was born Dec. 9, 1932, in Kendallville to Dr. Richard and Theresa Gutstein. Dr. Richard Gutstein managed his medical practice up to the age of 81. Sometimes, for payment he received produce or a chicken. Alfred was the same way and sometimes in exchange for legal advice, clients paid him with firewood and one time he received a recliner.

Mr. Gutstein graduated in 1951 from Kendallville High School as valedictorian and always wanted to be an attorney — a calling his family said he dearly loved. He grew up with former Noble County Circuit Court Judge Bob Probst and both shared a desire to practice law. Mr. Gutstein graduated in 1955 from Yale College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history. He then earned his law degree from Northwestern University Law School in 1958. He was licensed to practice law in Indiana and Illinois.

In a 2008 Herald Republican story, Mr. Gutstein was honored for his 50 years with the Indiana State Bar Association. He specialized in elder law, wills and real estate. In the story, Mr. Gutstein said, "I enjoy coming to work. I enjoy meeting people."

"He was told he was too honest," Joyce Gutstein, his wife, said. "He wouldn't do divorces because he didn't like divorces. He was kind and dedicated."

"He defied the lawyer stereotype," Betsy Gutstein, one of his daughters, said.

In 1961, Mr. Gutstein and his family moved to Angola after he served in state and federal posts, in addition to being Indiana deputy attorney general for one year. Mr. Gutstein was appointed Steuben County Prosecutor, a position he held for 12 years, and was re-elected three full terms.

For 40 years, he was the attorney for the Steuben County Welfare Office, also known as the Steuben County Division of Family and Children. He was also a member of the Steuben County Child Protection Team from 1978 to 2002.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alfred Gutstein

"I have over 200 sympathy cards," Joyce said. "(Some) were from clients and said how kind and helpful he was. He had a real fan club among widows … He was very compassionate."

Joyce recalled her husband worked on condemnation cases for the construction of I-69.

Mr. Gutstein met Joyce in Chicago, when she was head nurse at Passavant Hospital on the campus of Northwestern University where he was studying for the bar. After a three-year courtship, they married Nov. 17, 1962 in Springfield, Ill. They had two daughters who are both teachers, Betsy Gutstein and Pat Butkus of Evanston, Ill. and Susan and Mark Wright of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mr. Gutstein served in the U.S. Air Force as trial and defense counsel. He was discharged with the rank of captain. From 1959 to 1961, he was a member of the Indiana Air National Guard. Later, between 1962 and 1964, he was legal officer with the Ohio Air National Guard and was discharged with the rank of captain.

Mr. Gutstein's community involvement was extensive. He served Cameron Memorial Community Hospital 25 years as a board member, president, vice president and secretary, in addition to seven years served on the Cameron Community Hospital Foundation as president and secretary-treasurer. He also was a member of the Angola Rotary Club since 1964 and served as president in 1984, and assistant district governor for six northeast Indiana Rotary Clubs. He received the Paul Harris Prestigious Award twice.

He was also past member, board member and vice president of the Steuben County Mental Health Association; past board member of Steuben County United Way in the 1960s and again in the 1990s. From 1961-63, he was a past member and board member of the Angola Jaycees. He was past board member and one of the original incorporaters in 1973 of the Humane Society of Steuben County.

"He had a legendary work ethic," Betsy said. "It was the expectation of my grandparents that you got the best education possible."

Education was so valued in the Gutstein family that nine members have a college education. Mr. Gutstein was an Ivy Leaguer, having gone to Yale, but he was also accepted to Dartmouth. His brother, Armin, went to Harvard University. His daughters have numerous degrees with Susan having three and Betsy having four and starting a fifth.

Susan said her father was always good at getting to sporting events. His knowledge in law also came in handy when she was a journalist. "I had a built-in dictionary/thesaurus a phone call away," Susan said. When she was a journalist, she sent her father many of her by-lined stories. "We had newsprint in our blood with all of the briefing magazines and newspapers he got."

Mr. Gutstein was baptised at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Kendallville. Since 1963, he was an active member of Angola United Methodist Church and served on various committees and as a trustee.

Mr. Gutstein was a music lover, especially classical. He and Joyce had season tickets to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic for more than 30 years. In high school, he played in a German band and in college he was a proud member of the Yale Marching Band. His sister, Lenora Cohen, of Pittsburgh, is still playing the viola for the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra.

He also adored animals, especially dachshunds, having seven different ones as his pets.

Cremation took place. The family held a private memorial service.

Memorials may be made to the Angola United Methodist Church, Faith Community Health Clinic, the Humane Society of Steuben County, or to the Noble County Community Foundation memorial scholarship in memory of Dr. Richard and Theresa Gutstein.

Lester Warstler

GARRETT — Lester Warstler, 90, died Friday morning, July 22, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Formerly of Angola, Mr. Warstler was born on May 19, 1921, in Auburn to the late Orange and Ethel (Ostrander) Warstler.

Mr. Warstler was a retired farmer and worked for Ball Brass Foundry in Auburn for 25 years. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the Pacific.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, David Warstler of Butler, Richard and Ruth Warstler of Dallas, Ga., and Ronald and Pauline Warstler of Sioux City, Iowa; two daughters, Audrey Shell of Phoenix, Ariz., and Elaine Etheridge of San Antonio, Texas; two brothers, Charles Warstler of Garrett and Robert Warstler of Ohio; nine grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille (Fett) Warstler in 1975, and two sisters, Ruth Durham and Minnie Hollinger.

Memorial services will take place at a later date.

The H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

William Snow

AUBURN — William Jerome "Bill" Snow, 52 of Auburn died Monday, July 25, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne after a short but grueling battle with Cholangio-carcinoma.

Mr. Snow

He was born December 24, 1958, in Hammond, Ind., to William T. and Elaine (Klug) Snow. His father has passed away and his mother survives in Lakeland, Fla.

He was National Sales Manager for Rieke Corporation for over 15 years.

Bill graduated from Munster High School in 1976 and earned his BS Degree from Indiana University in 1981. He was a member of Acacia Fraternity and was an avid swimmer, golfer and enjoyed his family, friends and vacationing.

Bill married Emilie "Beth" Welsh on February 12, 1983, in Griffith, Ind., and she survives.

He is also survived by two sons and a daughter, William J. "Billy" Snow Jr. of Kendallville, Michael B. Snow of Auburn and Emilie S. Snow at home in Auburn; two sisters and two brothers, Robert T. Snow of Crown Point, Cynthia A. Snow of Oswego, Ill., James R. (Kristin) Snow of Highland and Elizabeth E. Athey of Munster.

A funeral Mass will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 28, 2011, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Calling is from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center S., Auburn.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Utah Rowe

AUBURN — Utah C. "the Honey man" Rowe, 79, died Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Rowe

He was born Oct. 20, 1931, in Jackson, Ky., to Adam and Laviney (Wisecup) Rowe. His mother, father and stepmother, Ethel Rowe, have all passed away.

Utah worked for Auburn Gear for 27 years then for Allied Mills in Fort Wayne for 19 years before retiring in 1995.

He was a member of County Line Church of God, Auburn Moose Lodge, Northeast Indiana Bee Keepers Association and the K of P Lodge of Auburn.

He married Helen Kruse on May 12, 1972, in the Auburn Presbyterian Church and she survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Marlene (Roger) Steinman of Auburn; three sons, Roger (Carol) Rowe of Tampa, Fla., Ed (Joyce) Rowe of Tampa, Fla., Tony (Kim) Rowe of South Carolina; two stepdaughters, Christine (Gary) Bollier of Winfield, Ill., Toni (Rob) Harris of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Danny Bowling of Tennessee; 18 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Anneta Wilkening of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Geneva Neeley of Willard, Ohio; and a brother, Melton Rowe of Willard, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Marshall Rowe, and two sisters, Wilda Jane Gibson and Alice Juanita Rowe.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 30, 2011, at County Line Church of God, with the Rev. Stuart Kruse and the Rev. Dane Kruse officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, Ind., and also one hour prior to the service from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Preferred memorials are to the County Line Youth Ministry.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Nolan Allison

GARRETT — Nolan E. Allison, 76, died Monday, July 25, 2011, at his home.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Aug. 5 at Waynedale United Methodist Church, 2501 Church St., Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Hospice of Northeast Indiana.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements.

Josephine Crowl

SPENCERVILLE — Josephine A. Crowl, 86, died Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at New Haven Rehabilitation & Health Care.

Mrs. Crowl

She retired in 1984 after 18 years as an assembler with G.E. in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Crowl was a member of the Spencerville United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and Women's Elite Club of GE.

She was born in Tangerine, Fla., on January 8, 1925, to Charles E. and Frances (Butler) Chapman. She married Robert A. Crowl on April 13, 1946, in Newport, Ky. He preceded her in death on May 8, 2006.

Surviving are two sons, Robert A. (Susan) Crowl and Joe E. Crowl, all of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; 24 great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Isabel (Art) Folk of LaPorte.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and David Chapman, and a sister, Rachel Cook.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home with Pastor Donna Gammon officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Richard Fisher

BRYAN, Ohio — Richard L. Fisher, 60, of Bryan, Ohio, passed peacefully into the arms of God on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at Parkview Cancer Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, following a vigorous 34-month battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Mr. Fisher

Richard was born in Garrett, Indiana on October 6, 1950, to W. Dale and Martha Fisher. He grew up in Butler, Indiana with his two older brothers, Ronald and Roger, and graduated from Eastside High School in 1968.

On his 21st birthday, he was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church, Edgerton, Ohio. On April 15, 1972, Richard married the love of his life, Roxanne Hughart. The two lived in Bryan and were blessed with two sons, Ryan and Randy, and their wives, Erin and Amy, and grandchildren Chase, Peyton, and Alexandria.

Richard attended Indiana University and later graduated Suma Cum Laude from International Business College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, with a degree in Computer Science. He began his career and spent 14 years in Information Technology at Spangler Candy Company, Bryan, Ohio. Richard then advanced his career for 12 years at Sauder Woodworking, Archbold, Ohio.

Throughout his career he worked in various levels of Management with Ohio Art, Wheeltec, Chase Brace, Auburn Foundry, and Data Eclipse. The past five rewarding years of his career were spent with Dawn Food Products, Jackson, Michigan, as Senior Special Projects Manager.

Richard was a proud member of Zion Lutheran Church where he served his Lord and congregation as Chairman, Elder, and Deacon. He was a past member of the Bryan Jaycees and the Information Technology Users group.

He was avid musician, playing the tenor sax and guitar. In fact, Richard played the bass guitar in a rock band in the '60s. Richard was athletic and loved sports, especially those which he coached and later watched his sons play in their high school and college careers. Recently, he enjoyed watching his grandchildren in football, soccer, and swimming. During summers, Richard loved being outside in the sun and boating at Lake Tippecanoe. He was also extremely passionate about sports cars, especially vintage Corvettes. Most of all, Richard cherished his time with family, as a faithful husband, loving Dad, and playing with all of his grandchildren, who knew him affectionately as "Bopa."

Richard is survived by his wife of 39 years, Roxanne (Hughart); two sons and daughters-in-law, Ryan and his wife Erin, of East Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Randy and his wife, Amy, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; his grandchildren, Chase and Peyton Anne Fisher of East Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Alexandria Fisher of Fort Wayne, Indiana; his two brothers and sister-in-law, Ronald Fisher, Lutherville, Maryland, and Roger and Janet Fisher, Leesburg, Indiana; his wife's family, David and Carol Hughart, Kelso, Washington, Richard Hughart, Hicksville, Ohio, James Hughart, Ladson, South Carolina, Stan and Debra Hughart, Edgerton, Ohio, Kathy and Bill Teegardin, Ladson, South Carolina, Barbara and Gary Alley, Hudson, Indiana, Connie and Kenneth Webb, Escondido, California; his Godson, Daniel Hughart, Butler, Indiana. He is also survived by two aunts, several nieces, nephews, friends, colleagues, and his church family.

Those who knew him best described him as faithful, trustworthy, organized, confident, astute, and honorable.

Visitation for Richard will be held on Friday, July 29, 2011, from 3-8 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, 860 W. Mulberry St., Bryan. Services will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2011, at 11 a.m. in the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church near Edgerton, Ohio. Visitation will also be held for one hour prior to the service beginning at 10 a.m. in the church. Interment will follow in the Zion Cemetery.

Memorials in the the name of Richard Fisher are requested to Zion Lutheran Church or to The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, One Charles Center, 100 North Charles Street, Suite 234, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Sue Habig

AUBURN — Sue Valentine Habig, 75, of Auburn died Thursday, July 28, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Habig

She was born May 21, 1936, in Conway, Mo., to Arthur Franklin and Jessie (Goans) Valentine.

She worked along side her husband, Jim, and ran the office at Habig Realty in Auburn.

She was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church.

Sue married James Habig on June 12, 1978, and he passed away October 5, 2005.

She is survived by two daughters, Vickie Elliott of Auburn and Sherri (Bill) Carteaux of Arlington, Va.; a son, Randy (Nila) Elliott of Auburn; three stepsons, James Habig of Auburn, Terry (Debbie) Habig of New Orleans, La., and Todd (Lara) Habig of Avon, Ind.; five grandchildren, Kelby Shields, Ryan (MaryAnne) Elliott, Nick (Nikki) Greco, Whitney Carteaux, and Mallory Carteaux; four stepgrandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Betty (Kenny) Edwards of Bloomfield, Ind.; and a brother, Don (Tena) Valentine of Albany, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jim; and a brother, Jarald Valentine.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, August 1, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. David Mathews officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home and also 1 hour prior to the service Monday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Preferred memorials are to American Cancer Society or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

Patty McCann

AUBURN — Patty L. McCann, 67, of Auburn died Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. McCann worked at Rieke Corp. for 37 1/2 years, retiring in 2004.

She is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla.

She was born June 28, 1944, in Helmer to Clyde V. and Essie B (Hathaway) Wilhelm. She married Gaylon McCann on Aug. 30, 1963, in the Ashley Church of God and he survives.

She is also survived by a daughter, Connie S. Barnes of Ashley; a son, Jerry L. (Deb) McCann of Auburn; her sister, Linda (Harold) Jetmore of Auburn; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Betty J. Feagler and Dora "June" Phares; and three brothers, Billy Wilhelm, Bob Wilhelm and Jimmy Wilhelm.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Tom Dunbar officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Memorials are to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 113 W. Albion St., Avilla, IN 46710.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
JULY 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Joseph Halterman Jr.

GARRETT — Joseph D. Halterman Jr., 64, of Garrett, died Friday, July 29, 2011, at VA Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Halterman was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a POW during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, the Garrett American Legion and VFW, Northeast Indiana Vietnam Veterans and IPFW Alumni Association.

He was born Oct. 4, 1946, in Louisville, Ky., to Joseph Halterman Sr. and Phyllis (Mahoney) Halterman.

Surviving are his wife, Sally A. Halterman of Garrett; his mother, Phyllis Halterman of Indianapolis; two daughters, Judith and Kent Parrott of Fort Wayne and Jennifer Halterman of Garrett; two sisters, Joann Meyers of Indianapolis and Cletia and John Bowron of Jacksonville, Fla.; and three grandchildren.

A private family Mass will be held at a later date.

Memorials are to the family or to the donor's choice.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

E. Joan Leason

HAMILTON — E. Joan Leason, 84, died Friday, July 29, 2011, at her home in Hamilton.

Mrs. Leason was a homemaker.

She was born April 25, 1927, in Garrett to Lawrence O. and Iva E. (Stockington) Bertsch.

She married Marvin E. Leason on Oct. 25, 1947. He died Aug. 19, 1993.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Cathy E. and Robert Haynes of Hamilton and Karen S. Leason of Hamilton; two sisters, A. Germaine Reed of Garrett, and Doris Hollis of Garrett; and a brother, Robert Bertsch of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a sister, Elizabeth Bertsch; and a brother, Albert Bertsch.

A graveside service will be held 2 p.m. Monday at Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton, with the Rev. Eric Stoops officiating.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo is handling arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAI
JULY 31 2011 Auburn, Indiana

He was truly one of a kind

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — The voice of the Apple Festival of Kendallville and the McDonald's Restaurant drive-through breakfast shift is now silent.

He's no longer at the YMCA on his crutches challenging kids to free throw contests and invariably winning.

One of the Pittsburgh Steelers' most avid local fans is gone.

Robert James "Bob" Lunk, 61, of Kendallville, passed away on July 6, 2011.

"To say that Bob Lunk will be missed is an understatement, as he was truly one of a kind. We need more Bob Lunks in this world," Fred Inniger said about his sports-loving friend.

Mr. Lunk had lived in the area for 16 years, coming from Virginia. He was from Latrobe, Pa., and had worked as a loan officer in a Pittsburgh bank, hence his love for the Steelers.

Locally, he was a coach and supervisor at the YMCA. He also kept score for youth and adult basketball games, served as a sideline official and, in the words of Cole Center Family YMCA program director Donna Wolfe, "Bob was every child's personal coach." She remembers watching Bob supervise basketball practices many times and always taking time to give each player his personal attention.

"He was always showing someone a drill to do or, even better, a ball trick he would use to entertain the kids," Wolfe said.

Wolfe worked with Mr. Lunk at the score table during adult league games. He used his announcing skills to tell jokes and keep everyone in good spirits.

"I remember many times when he would coach from the score table with advice such as 'follow your shot' and 'use your other hand,'" said Wolfe. One of Mr. Lunk's famous sayings was "Wilson-burger" after a shot was blocked.

Mr. Lunk

Mr. Lunk loved to talk sports with anyone who would listen, including Inniger, a sportscaster with The Hawk 95.5 radio and former East Noble coach. When his son, Josh, played basketball for East Noble, Mr. Lunk sat in front row near mid-court in the East Noble gym cheering for his son and the team. Inniger was nearby calling the games on radio.

"When Bob couldn't travel to away games, he would listen to them on the radio, and I couldn't wait to drive through McDonald's the next morning to get Bob's version of the replay and game analysis," said Inniger.

Mr. Lunk's wife, Sheree, serves on the Apple Festival of Kendallville committee, and her husband made announcements during the festival from the festival's office in the Noble County Fairgrounds. His love for porkburgers at the festival was legendary, according to committee members.

"He would never pass up a chance at a porkburger," recalled Cheri Bherns, a past festival president. "If anyone was going to get something to eat, Bob would ask to get him a porkburger, because he had announcements to make."

Kathy Young, a past festival president and food chairman, remembered how Mr. Lunk accumulated more than one porkburger because he kept asking for them. In 2009, he ended up with pancreatitis from eating too many porkburgers.

Amanda Taylor, the festival's coordinator, said Mr. Lunk was always willing to listen when she became frustrated and needed to blow off steam.

"At the festival wrap-up dinner, Bob would always have a joke to share. There was never a concern about being too serious if Bob was around, because he enjoyed having a good time," Taylor said.

There was a serious side, though, to Mr. Lunk in how much he cared for others, not just the kids at the Y and his co-workers at McDonald's and Apple Festival of Kendallville committee members. Mr. Lunk helped others even upon his death. He was an organ donor. His wife, Sheree, said he donated his corneas.

"They were transplanted so two people could see when they couldn't before," she said.

His wife and son, Josh, survive in Kendallville.

Steven Kessler

HAMILTON — Steven Keith Kessler, 19, of Hamilton died Thursday, July 28, 2011, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

He graduated from Hamilton High School in 2010. He was currently attending school and playing baseball for Marietta College in Ohio.

Mr. Kessler

Steven was an avid sportsman but his true passion was baseball.

He was born Feb. 5, 1992, in Auburn, to W. Kenneth and Lisa M. (Krontz) Kessler. They survive in Hamilton.

Also surviving are two brothers, Joshua W. Kessler of Hamilton, and Rian J. Kessler of Hamilton, maternal grandparents, Bill and Sue Krontz of Butler; paternal grandmother, Norma Jean Kessler of Butler; and aunts and uncles and their spouses, Casey and Kim Boyd of Hudson, Kelly Curry of Butler, Kori and Mandy Kessler of Butler, Melinda Krontz of Columbia City, Scott and Tammy Schuller of New Hampshire, and Bill and Latrisha Krontz of Bryan, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, William R. "Bill" Kessler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the New Life Community Center, 4001 Terry Lake Estates, Hamilton, with Jeff Alexander officiating.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Monday also at the New Life Community Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Kenneth and Lisa Kessler to help with final expenses.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo are handling arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Maya Wilken

AUBURN — Maya Elise Wilken, infant daughter of Stephanie Fahlsing of Fort Wayne, and Lucas Wilken of Forreston, Ill. was born and died July 25, 2011, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Visitation will be on Aug. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 Center St., Auburn. A private family graveside service will follow with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Memorials are to Ronald McDonald House, 350 Erkenbrecher Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229 in Maya's memory.

Janet Hamilton

AUBURN — Janet Mae Hamilton, 75, of Auburn died Friday, July 29, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She was born in Fort Wayne June 19, 1936. She was preceded in death by her mother and two stepfathers, Wilma (Brown) Colbart, George Ferrell and Donald Colbart.

Janet helped her husband, Jim, manage Hamilton and Son Drugs in Waterloo and Angola. She also worked a few years at Farmers Ag in Butler.

On August 9, 1954, she married James Hamilton in Waterloo, and he survives in Auburn. She is also survived by two sons, Jeffery (Sally) Hamilton of Auburn, James II (Heather) Hamilton of Haslett, Mich.; a daughter, Julia (Cary) Thompson of Auburn; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Byron (Janice) Ferrell of Godfrey, Ill., Tim (Linda) Colbert of Auburn and a sister, Susan (Al) Armstrong of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Doug Colbert, and a grandson, Adam Thompson.

A memorial service will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne St., Waterloo. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service from 12-2 p.m. Tuesday. Memorials can be directed to Children First Center, Auburn. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Russell Badman

AUBURN — Russell Wayne Badman, 85, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

He was born March 16, 1926, in Waterloo to the late Lawrence and Louise (Wise) Badman.

Mr. Badman

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Pauline (Buchs) Badman; daughters, Deborah Walker and husband William of Raleigh, N.C., Rebecca Boman and husband Timothy of Butler, son Rex Badman of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Adam Harold, Lauren Harold, Trevor Boman and Chad Badman; two sisters, Betty Kees of Waterloo, Joann Burns of Butler; and two brothers, Jack Badman and wife Patty of Waterloo, Richard Badman and wife Charlene of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Badman.

He was a World War II veteran serving in the United States Air Force with the 58th bomber wing. He flew in the B29 Super Fortress. He was stationed in the South Pacific, South Korea and Burma and flew several missions over Japan. He was a member of the Waterloo V.F.W. and the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He retired from Dana Corp. after 28 years of employment. He and his wife enjoyed doing wood working and attending craft shows together during their retirement years. For many years he coached youth baseball and softball in Waterloo.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Visitation is Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. A rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb Home Health and Hospice. To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Grace Keister

ALBION — Grace L. Keister, a resident of rural Albion and wife of Lester "Pete" Keister, passed away at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, 2011, at Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City. She had been a patient there for the past five days.

Mrs. Keister

Mrs. Keister was born in Churubusco on November 26, 1930, a daughter of Ralph and Effie (Tarlton) Shanabarger. She spent her formative years in Churubusco and graduated from Churubusco High School in 1948.

On July 7, 1951, she was united in marriage in Merriam to Lester "Pete" Keister, and lived all of her adult life in Noble County. For 45 years she assisted her husband in the operation of the Merriam Feed Mill, retiring from there in 1993.

She was a member of the Merriam Christian Chapel, and was a former Sunday School teacher. She was also a member of the Noble County Home Economics Club, and had volunteered as a Noble Township 4-H leader for several years.

The surviving relatives include her husband Lester "Pete" Keister, to whom she was married for over 60 years; a son, Gary (Norma) Keister of Goshen; two daughters, Marcia (Steve) Provines of Auburn and Deb (Bill) Smith of Wawaka; a brother, Morris "Bill" Shanabarger of Churubusco; his sister, Norma Waters of Muldrow, Oklahoma; two sisters-in-law, Joan Keller of Churubusco and Louise Shanabarger of Avilla; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Robert Shanabarger, Lee Shanabarger and Glenn Shanabarger; and a great-grandchild, Adara Grace Clark.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011, at the Merriam Christian Chapel with Pastor Terry L. Zolman, officiating.

The family will receive friends at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco on Wednesday from 2-4 and from 6-8 p. m., or at the church one hour prior to the service.

Interment will be in the Christian Chapel Cemetery, Merriam.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to Riley Hospital for Children, 705 Riley Hospital Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46202; or the American Cancer Society, 111 E. Ludwig Rd., #105, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

To leave an online condolence for the family in Mrs. Keister's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Joyce Brown

AUBURN — On Saturday, July 30, 2011, Jesus Christ along with all of heaven rejoiced as they welcomed home their beloved Joyce Arlene Brown (Doe), 82.

Mrs. Brown

As a devoted wife, she was a homemaker.

As a committed mom, she acted as secretary of Auburn swim club for 14 years, Brownie leader and Cub Scout den mother.

As a loyal friend, she was an original member of the Duck Club.

She also enjoyed sewing, painting and was a member of the Auburn Art Commission.

She was a loving grandmother and sister who touched many people and will always be remembered by her kindness and sense of humor.

Joyce was born in Waterloo on April 13, 1929, and lived most of her life in Auburn.

Surviving are her two daughters and their husbands, Sandy and Bob Kessler of Auburn, Indiana, and Suzy and Gary Brewer of Bristol, Indiana; six grandchildren, Melanie Jones, Jeannie and Justin Haverstock, Caleb Kessler, Tony Timmerman, and Jaimie Kessler; four great-grandchildren, Cederic and Sheldon Troxell, Mckinzie Coleman and Summer Haverstock; two brothers, Jim and Jack Engle; and one stepsister, Sharon Reiter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marcelle Engle and Viola Forrest Engle; her husband, Elwood (Woody) Brown; her son, Terry Brown, and her granddaughter, Delaney Brown.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, August 6 at 11 a.m. at the Cedar Lake Church of Christ, 1492 C.R. 27, Waterloo, Ind.

Memorials may be directed to Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

Arrangements are by Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

To sign the online register or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinningtonmccomb.com.

David Buckmaster

KENDALLVILLE — David Duane "Bucky" Buckmaster, age 75, of Kendallville died on Monday, August 1, 2011, at his Kendallville home.

Mr. Buckmaster

Mr. Buckmaster was born in Geneva, Indiana, on July 7, 1936, to Samuel David Buckmaster and Elsie Mae (McLaughlin) Buckmaster.

He married Nancy L. Coleman on July 10, 1984, at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

Mr. Buckmaster worked for his parents at the Midway Inn in Waterloo in the 1950s. He then worked for Hizer Sales in Fort Wayne servicing amusement and gaming machines. He later worked for Waterloo Dairy, Allen Dairy and Prairie Farms for 34 years, retiring in 1998.

Mr. Buckmaster enjoyed fishing, hunting and mushroom hunting. He also enjoyed horse back riding and showing horses, gardening, bird watching and watching auto racing. He loved his dogs and was an avid Indiana University basketball fan.

Mr. Buckmaster was a member of the Angola Moose and he played on a shuffle board league for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy L. Buckmaster of Kendallville; four sons, Mark Buckmaster and Cindy Miller of Angola, Jack and Beth Buckmaster of Angola, Eric Buckmaster and Pam Quaintance of Auburn and Jason Buckmaster and Niki Howenstine of Auburn; three daughters, Sue and Mark Koenig of Auburn, Cheri and Roy Lawson of Auburn and Karen and Todd Elkins of Auburn; a stepson, Tim Suter of Fort Wayne; and a stepdaughter, Laurie and Scott Miller of Kendallville.

Also surviving are 21 grandchildren, Justin, Brandon, Kayle and Seth Koenig; Heather Harter; Brock, Blake, Roy Jr. and Chad Lawson; Taylor, Mason and Erin (Drew) Elkins; Rece Buckmaster, Ben (Carrie) and Mallory Quaintance; Hannah and Carson Buckmaster; Brooke, Talen and Tasha Howenstine; and Brandon Suter; two great-grandchildren, Aubrey Drew and Faith Quaintance; a sister, Darlene Roberts of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Jack Buckmaster; and one sister, Betty Mize.

Visitation will be Friday, August 5, 2011, from 3-7 p.m. at the Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Saturday, August 6, 2011, at 11 a.m. at the Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Paul Griebel.

Burial will be at a later date at the Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Noble or DeKalb County Humane Shelters or Parkview Noble Hospice.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of David by Friday, August 5, 2011 at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
AUGUST 4 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Rev. Sam Sawyer

SOUTH MILFORD — Reverend Sam Sawyer, 90, of South Milford died Wednesday, August 3, 2011, at 8:20 a.m. in his residence.

Rev. Sawyer

He had worked for the Michigan Ambulance Service in Detroit for ten years. After moving to this area in 1950, he worked at Newnam Foundry in Kendallville.

He was a Baptist minister for over 50 years, serving this community. He was the founder of the Church of True God north of South Milford.

Sam honorably served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was born September 2, 1920, in Vest, Kentucky, to Marion and Lyda (Bolen) Sawyer. On May 26, 1944, in Paintsville, Kentucky, he married Janivee Wallen. After celebrating their 60th anniversary, she preceded him in death on August 29, 2004. He then married Gertrude B. (Tackett) Bolen on February 3, 2006, in LaGrange.

Surviving are his wife, Gertrude B. Sawyer of South Milford; a son, Marvin (Susan) Price of McKinney, Texas; three stepsons, Sheridan (Joyce) Hall of Waterloo, Earl (Jewell) Bolen of Kendallville, and David (Teresa) Bolen of Wolcottville; two grandchildren, Ryan Price of Allen, Texas, and Lara Price of Houston, Texas; 20 stepgrandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Matthew Price and Hallie Price both of Texas; 21 stepgreat-grandchildren; and a brother, Marion Sawyer Jr. of Lima, Ohio.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Malcolm Sawyer.

Funeral services will be Saturday, August 6, 2011, at 11 a.m. in Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Wolcottville, with the Rev. Eugene Haney, the Rev. David Bolen, and the Rev. Glenn Patrick officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery, LaGrange. Honor guard services will be provided by Rome City American Legion Post 381, Kendallville VFW Post 2749, and active duty members of the U.S. Army.

Calling is Friday, August 5, 2011, from 3 to 7 p.m. in Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Wolcottville where there will be an evening service at 7 p.m.

Preferred memorials are to Liberty Free Will Baptist Church.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9 North, Wolcottville.

View a video tribute after Friday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

STAR
AUGUST 5 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Claire Jackson

BUTLER — Claire Marie Jackson, hours old daughter of Perry and Nora Jackson of Butler, died Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011, at DuPont Hospital in Fort Wayne where she was born.

Private family services will be held.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Harold Deihl

CORUNNA — Harold C. Deihl age 77 died at 1:25 p.m. Thursday, August 4, 2011 at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne. He was born February 3, 1934 in rural Garrett to George and Ada (Miller) Deihl and they preceded him in death. He married Mary Jo Mitchell on June 21, 1959 in Garrett and she survives in Corunna.

Mr. Diehl

Harold was a farmer all his life and was a member of the Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church in Garrett, the Oliver Gang Tractor Club and the Pontiac Oakland Club International.

Harold is also survived by his son, Mark Deihl of Garrett; daughter, Elaine (Don) Plante of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn Plante of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Harold was also preceded in death by his brother, Carl Deihl, and two sisters, Ruth Hackman and Helen Hoover.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Sunday, August 7, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, Ind., and from 9-10 a.m. Monday, August 8, 2011, at the Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church in Garrett.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, August 8, 2011, at the Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church with the Rev. Joe Laher and the Rev. David Mix officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the church, the Gideon's, or the Heimach Center.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Nicholas Sharp

BUTLER — Nicholas D. Sharp, 43, of Butler, died Friday August 5, 2011, at his residence.

Mr. Sharp

Born June 28, 1968 in Adrian, Mich,, he was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He enjoyed woodworking and working outside in his yard.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothea E. "Dori" Sharp of Butler; two sons, Matt (Sarah) Stanley of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Steven Stanley of Auburn; two daughters, Jessica Sharp of Butler and Katie Sharp of Butler; his mother, Juanita Sharp of Morenci, Mich.; a grandson, Jeremy "JJ" Howard of Butler; his granddaughter, Natalie Stanley of Auburn; a brother, Terry (Brenda) Sharp of Morenci, Mich.; two sisters, Joann Williams and Cherrie Reimer both of Morenci, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Nicholas Sharp II; his father, Donald Sharp; his grandmother, Grandma Moore; and nieces, Crystal and Heather Sharp.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Visitation will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour prior to the funeral service Monday. Minister Darrin Langford will officiate. Burial in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Visitation will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour prior to the funeral service Monday.

Memorials to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To send a sympathy card or to sign the online guest book, visit www.pinningtonmccomb.com.

STAR
AUGUST 7 2011 Auburn, Indiana

'Daddy was always about family'

Herb Sutton was father, farmer, school bus driver

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

LAOTTO — Mary Sutton's three daughters flank her in the kitchen of the family farm south of LaOtto. The dinner table is loaded with photos, farm magazines and John Deere memorabilia, and a weather radio crackles in the background.

Vickie Nodine, Nancy Chittenden and Peggy Tarlton gather to share memories of their father, Herb Sutton, who died June 27 at his beloved farmhouse. Their brother, Dennis, was running wheat in a nearby field, tending to the family business.

Most remember Herb as a soft-spoken, family man who never spoke ill of others. If it was a truck, his had to be a Ford. When it came to tractors or farm equipment — his was always John Deere green.

Butterscotch candies and ice cream scoops are among memories of a man who was raised by the neighbors when his parents died when he was about 13.

"Maybe it was the way he was raised, but Daddy was always about family," Peggy Tarlton said. "When I was young, I don't ever remember if he would even raise his voice if you were in trouble."

That left his wife to be the disciplinarian when the kids got mouthy, the sisters agreed.

"He tried to make me a farm girl," said daughter Vickie, who had been doing the cooking since she was 10.

But when she "destroyed" the head of Herb's new combine while trying to back up a pickup truck beside it, he spoke only a few words.

"He told me, 'You need to go back to the house. That's where you belong.'" Vickie recalled.

All four Sutton children helped on the farm. Sometimes it was gathering rocks, hooking bales of hay or straw, whatever needed to be done. They raised pigs and dairy cows, mainly Holstein and Brown Swiss.

"We didn't have fun time. We all worked — had chores to do. We didn't have time to do things after school," Peggy said. "Dad would come in late from milking the cows, so would all wait for supper around this table."

Vickie helped cut corn with a sickle. When the sharp blade sunk deep into her leg one day, her brother, Dennis, told her to pack it with dirt like the Indians did. So

"What I loved about Daddy — I was supposed to be a boy, so I was his tomboy. I would drive the truck with fertilizer. That is my best memory, being with dad and riding the tractor fender with him," Peggy said.

But hard work paid off for the Sutton kids. Herb would give them a cow or pig to raise for 4-H. They used the auction money to purchase their first cars or other needs.

Peggy said she bought a maroon Gran Torino — a three-speed. Nancy's proceeds paid for her wedding photos.

"I guess I was spoiled. If we wanted something, dad would make sure we got it," Peggy said. "We worked for it."

That also applied to the hired help around the farm. A couple of

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herb Sutton

them offered condolences at the funeral home and said they learned a lot working beside Herb on the farm.

"He taught them how to work. They always respected him for that, for making them hard workers," Mary said.

"Nowadays you can't get anyone to come out to help on a hot humid day. And dad paid them well," Peggy said.

In 1947, Mary met "The Nickel Man" at a roller dome in Columbia City when she accidentally lost some loose change.

"My parents gave us just enough money to buy a five-cent bottle of pop at the roller dome," Mary said. "I am not a good skater." So while trying to stay on her feet, one of her nickels flipped into the rolled-up cuff of Herb's pants as he happened to be skating by.

Too embarrassed to ask for it back, Mary said she remained thirsty the rest of the night. The next week, Herb offered to buy her a pop — an offer that would live on for more than 60 years.

While courting Mary, Herb was afraid of arriving too early, so he would park down the road from her parents' home near Collins. Mary said she watched for his car from the upstairs window and got ready only when Herb parked down the road.

The young couple enjoyed trips on Herb's Harley-Davidson motorcycle with a small group of friends. During one outing, they had an accident and Mary skinned up her arm. After they married, the bike was sold to buy a refrigerator, Mary said.

In 1948, the newlyweds began working as hired hands at the Freeman Farm near Ari and lived in a one-bedroom home until they bought the Simons Farm along old S.R. 3 in 1956.

As a young girl, Mary was always the one to do the outdoor work, while her sister did the cooking. It was said Mary could burn boiled potatoes. So when she baked Herb a cherry pie from scratch for the first time, Herb cut and cut, but couldn't get through that crust. Neither could Mary.

"He never said another word. And he ate everything, most generally, I put in front of him," Mary said.

Mary didn't know how to drive a car when they first married, but she learned quickly when Herb sent her to the grain elevator in a 1941 Ford, pulling a trailer to get some feed ground.

"The elevator guys would say, 'Here comes Mary,'" she recalls.

Herb also taught all of his grandkids how to drive by sending them out to the field, sometimes in his new pickup truck.

Both Herb and Mary supplemented the farm income by driving school buses at Garrett. Both retired in 1996, Herb with 35 years, Mary with 24.

"They both loved driving the bus so much," according to Peggy. Herb's route began at the Sutton farm at 10 minutes until seven in the morning.

"He honked the horn out there," Peggy said nodding toward the kitchen window. "We were still eating our breakfast." As the first passengers on, and the last off, the Sutton kids spent about 90 minutes a day on the bus.

It was during those years Herb was known for giving out butterscotch candies to his passengers.

Mary and Herb took students on many extracurricular trips, driving the band to Illinois, overnight trips to Cedar Point, taking cheerleaders to Clinton, Ky. With both drivers on board, they could take a break from the wheel during long hauls.

The couple later became involved in tractor pulls, where Mary literally pulled her own weight and once qualified for the state finals.

They also enjoyed square dancing at Story Lake to the Just Us Three Band, and traveling often to Nashville to see The Grand Ole Opry. Loretta Lynn was Herb's favorite singer.

But perhaps Herb's favorite moments were Sundays at the farm, where he generously dipped up homemade vanilla ice cream to kids, grandkids, neighbors — whoever stopped by, often numbering more than 50 people.

"A little scoop was a plateful when Herb dished it up," Mary said. A photo of him with his signature ice cream dipper sticking out of his shirt pocket was on display at the funeral home.

Herb would organize a hayride every year, and until a few years ago, drove the tractor himself. After that, he was content to follow the wagon in his pickup with the flashers on.

Dennis Sutton took over the farm business a few years ago, but at the age of 61, stopped every morning to see what his dad thought should be done that day. Herb still wanted to be in the fields, and often rode in the combine with Dennis the last few years.

"He was Dennis' best friend," his sisters said.

Herb was taken past the farm for the final time on the way to Cedar Creek Cemetery south of Garrett. His John Deere tractor was in the front yard next to the lawn mower. Members of the DeKalb Horsemen's Association escorted him from Altarstar Methodist Church with his family walking close behind.

"To boil it all down, he was a common farmer," Mary said of her husband of 63 years. "I loved him all that time."

Sharon Brinkman-Best

SUMMERFIIELD, FLA. — Sharon "Shar" Brinkman-Best, 68, of Summerfield, Fla., and formerly of Ashley, Ind., passed away Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Surviving are her children: Ken Brinkman, Rondia (Bill) Pinto, Denise Cooper and Mishelle New.

A Celebration of Life will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, 2011 at the Rieke Park Lodge, 1600 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn.

Calling will be from 5:30 p.m. until the service on Friday, Aug. 12, at Rieke Park Lodge.

Memorials may be made to Sharon Best-Angel Garden Stones, Marion County Hospice, P.O. Box 4860, Ocala, FL 34478.

Condolences may be sent online to the family at sharbest55@yahoo.com.

STAR 2011 Auburn, Indiana
AUGUST 8

Sharon Brinkman-Best

SUMMERFIELD, Fla. — Sharon "Shar" Brinkman-Best, 68, of Summerfield and formerly of Ashley, Ind., passed away on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Mother was born on June 22, 1943 in Edon, OH to W.E. "Willie" and Marie Best. Her mother survives in Edgerton, OH.

Mother was a graduate of the Edon High School Class of 1962.

Mother retired in 2008 after 33 years with the Dana Corporation in Churubusco, Indianapolis and Mishawaka.

Mother is survived by a son and 3 daughters, Ken Brinkman, Rondia (Bill) Pinto, Denise Cooper and Mishelle New, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 11 brothers and sisters and a very special friend Rodney Johnson.

Mother was preceded in death by her father, brother Dean and a Son-in-Law Arnold "Buddy" New.

At Mother's request, a casual Celebration of Life will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2011 at the Rieke Park , North Indiana Ave. Auburn, Ind. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to the time of service.

Memorial donations may be made to Marion County Hospice at PO Box 4860, Ocala, FL 34478. Please memo your donation to Sharon Best - Angel Garden Stones.

Condolences may be sent to the family at sharbest55@yahoo.com.

Ruth Stiver

FORT WAYNE — Ruth A. Stiver, 87, of Fort Wayne, passed away Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011, at Kingston Care Center.

Mrs. Stiver

She was born Sept. 9, 1923 in Fort Wayne and was a homemaker. She formerly was a longtime member of Emmaus Lutheran Church and currently was a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

She was a kind and loving woman who loved her family.

She is survived by son, John H. (Shawn) Stiver of Fort Wayne; daughter, Becky (Jim) Craig of High Ridge, Mo.; son, Dennis L. (Cindy) Stiver of Auburn; and son, Rick A. (Sue) Stiver of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; brother, Kent (Shirley) Kanning of Fort Wayne; sisters, Faye Parent and Lois Frede, both of Fort Wayne; and sister-in-law, Barbara Kanning, of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert JH Stiver, in 1986, son, Robert C. Stiver, in 2007; brother, Mark Kanning and sister, Jean Melvin.

Funeral services are Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at Klaehn, Fahl and Melton Funeral Home, Winchester Road Chapel, 6424 Winchester Rd., Fort Wayne.

Visitation is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Preferred memorials are to Gethsemane Lutheran Church or Emmaus Lutheran School.

Condolences may be left at www.klaehnfahlmeltonfunerals.com.

Calling will be after 6 p.m. today at the family residence. Miller-Stewart Funeral Home, Middlebury, is handling arrangements.

Charles Ousley

AUBURN — Charles H. Ousley, 69, of Auburn died Monday Aug. 8, 201,1 at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mr. Ousley

He was born Nov. 15, 1941, in Hippo, Ky., to William and Margaret (Bailey) Ousley.

Charles worked for 37 years for Cooper Standard in Auburn before retiring in 2004. He was a member of Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church in Garrett.

He married Donna Prater on July 27, 1964, in Virginia and she survives. He also is survived by a daughter, Teresa L. Collins of Auburn; a son, James W. (Adrienne Roberts) Ousley of Hamilton; four grandchildren, Tasha Ousley, Taya Ousley, Jala Collins and Alex Collins; three sisters, Marie Jones of Garrett, Norma Jones of Kendallville and Sandra Handshoe of Garrett; and a brother, Oscar Ousley of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and a brother.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church in Garrett with Rev. Joe Laher officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center St., Auburn.

Preferred memorials are to Youth for Christ.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Marvin Snyder

BUTLER — Marvin R. Snyder, 69, passed away Monday, Aug. 8, 2011, at his home in Butler.

Mr. Snyder

Mr. Snyder was an engineer for Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville for 35 years. He then retired from Dura Automotive Systems in Butler.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp serving from 1960-1964.

He received a Management Degree from Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne in 1979.

He was a member of Christ's Church in Butler

He was also a member of the American Legion Post 202 of Butler, and the Loyal Order of the Moose in Bryan, Ohio.

He was born May 30, 1942, in Auburn, to Ralph B. and Muriel L. (Linn) Snyder.

He married Janet E. Auer on Sept. 29, 1967, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Kelly M. Snyder of Butler; two stepsons and their spouses, Kim T. and Terri Hendrickson of Garrett, and Kris A. and Pat Hendrickson of Butler; a grandson, Tyler Garten; three great-grandchildren, Kalayah Garten, Kassidy Garten, and Kayleighann Garten; four stepgrandchildren, Amy Lung, Ryan Hendrickson, Jessi Hildebrant and Kimi Hendrickson; four stepgreat-grandchildren, Paige Hildebrant, Kelsi Hildebrant, Taylor Hildebrant and Nicholas Hildebrant; and a brother and sister-in-law, Theron L. and Shirley Snyder of Hamilton.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery with military graveside services being conducted by U.S. Marine Corps and the American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Johnny Cooper

AUBURN — Johnny Wayne Cooper, 42, of Auburn died Monday, Aug. 8, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Charles Witt officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Nila Cooper.

Diane Kahlenbeck

ALBION — Diane Sue Kahlenbeck, 60, died Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Kahlenbeck lived much of her adult life in the Angola area until moving to her present home in rural Noble County. She was a 1968 graduate of Angola High School.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Kahlenbeck and her husband, Ned, were members of the Gold Wing Riders Assoc.

She was born Oct. 13, 1950, in Richmond to Dwight and Alberta (Hackman) Lanman. She married Ned W. Kahlenbeck on Feb. 12, 2001, in Avilla. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Dawn Wolf of Fremont and Amber (D. J.) Stone of Garrett; her parents, Dwight and Alberta Lanman of Angola; a sister, Kitty (Jim) Thompson of Arab, Ala.; a brother, Dwight (Kim) Lanman III of Angola; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2 p. m. Friday at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Lane Burgland, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, officiating.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to the service Friday.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be directed to Shadarobah Horse Rescue, 10113 Goshen Road, Fort Wayne IN 46818

To leave an online condolence, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net

Wava Sebert

AUBURN — Wava C. (Brandon) Sebert, 91, of Auburn went to be with her Lord Monday August 8, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born May 31, 1920, in Leipsic, Ohio, to Cloyd and Eunice (Quaintance) Schmidt.

Wava was a homemaker. She worked at the Corunna Post Office for 10 years.

She and her husband, John, spent a lot of their time visiting the elderly and helped hold church services at Lakeland Nursing Home in Angola and Zephyrhills Florida where they spent their winters.

She belonged to the Richland Township Home Demonstration Club for 30 years. She was a member and attended a number of churches in the area including Cedar Lake Church of Christ and Angola Assembly of God Church. She was a Youth Sponsor for 30 years and taught Sunday school for 42 years.

She married John Wilson Brandon on December 25, 1938, in Auburn Christian Church and he died March 10, 2001. She married Dwight Sebert on September 17, 2003, and he died February 11, 2010.

She is survived by three sons, Larry (Peggy) Brandon of Springfield, Ill., John (Oyuna) Brandon of Clarkfield, Minn., and Timothy (Lori) Brandon of LaOtto; two daughters, Nancy (Harry) Fike of Angola and Barbara (David) Ault of South Bend; a son-in-law, Dale Smith and his wife, Delores, of Waterloo; four stepchildren, Ellen (Dr Robert) Denney of New Port, N.C., Mike Sebert and his friend, Renee Kreischer, of Butler, Janet (Rick) Everhart of Butler, and Diane Smith of Remington; a sister Lila (Keith) Holden of Hudson; a sister-in-law, Catherine Schmidt of Auburn; 13 grandchildren; eight stepgrandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and 12 stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; 2 husbands; a daughter, Dana Smith; a grandson, Andrew Brandon; and two brothers, Furl Schmidt and Doyle Schmidt.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, August 12, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Gideon's International or RISE Inc..

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Kathy Wilson

ANGOLA — Kathy Denise Underwood Wilson, 57, of Angola died Monday, Aug. 8, 2011, at her home.

She was a housekeeper for Merry Maids.

Ms. Wilson

She was born May 27, 1954, in White Hall, Ill., to Paul Underwood and Mary Kondas Underwood Eyster. Her father is deceased and her mother survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons, Miles Fredrick II of Angola and Brandon Wilson of Auburn; two daughters, Rachael Reamer of Sarasota, Fla., and Renea Fredrick of Angola; a brother, Kevin Underwood of Pleasant Lake; two sisters, Yvonne Blair of Hamilton and Sheila Cole of Auburn; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church, 400 E. Henry St., Angola, with the Rev. Ben Archer officiating.

Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. Sunday prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are to the family to help with expenses in care of Miles Fredrick II.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Sign a guestbook at www.weichtfh.com.

Johnny Cooper

AUBURN — Johnny Wayne Cooper, 42, of Auburn died Monday, Aug. 8, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Charles Witt officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Nila Cooper.

Marvin Snyder

BUTLER — Marvin R. Snyder, 69, passed away Monday, Aug. 8, 2011, at his home in Butler.

Mr. Snyder

Mr. Snyder was an engineer for Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville for 35 years. He then retired from Dura Automotive Systems in Butler.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp serving from 1960-1964.

He received a Management Degree from Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne in 1979.

He was a member of Christ's Church in Butler

He was also a member of the American Legion Post 202 of Butler, and the Loyal Order of the Moose in Bryan, Ohio.

He was born May 30, 1942, in Auburn, to Ralph B. and Muriel L. (Linn) Snyder.

He married Janet E. Auer on Sept. 29, 1967, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Kelly M. Snyder of Butler; a grandson, Tyler Garten; three great-grandchildren, Kalayah Garten, Kassidy Garten, and Kayleighann Garten; a brother and sister-in-law, Theron L. and Shirley Snyder of Hamilton; four nephews; two stepsons and their spouses, Kim T. and Terri Hendrickson of Garrett, and Kris A. and Pat Hendrickson of Butler; four stepgrandchildren, Amy Lung, Ryan Hendrickson, Jessi Hildebrant and Kimi Hendrickson; and four stepgreat-grandchildren, Paige Hildebrant, Kelsi Hildebrant, Taylor Hildebrant and Nicholas Hildebrant.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery with military graveside services being conducted by U.S. Marine Corps and the American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Eva Bahls

KENDALLVILLE — Eva Beatrice "Bea" Bahls, 78, of Kendallville went to be with her Lord Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at Kingston at Dupont in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Bahls

She was born December 31, 1932, in Brimfield, Ind., to Paul and Pauline (Grunden) Kimmell.

She worked at King Seeley in Kendallville.

She is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, West Fairfield, Corunna. She was a member of the Ladies Aid of the church.

She was a 1951 graduate of Rome City High School.

Bea married Donald Bahls in November 1951 at Zion Lutheran Church, West Fairfield, Corunna, and he passed away in October 2000.

She is survived by three sons and a daughter, Steve (Vicki) Bahls of Auburn, Chris (Mike) Potter of Fort Wayne, Jim (Lynn) Bahls of Wyle, Texas, and Dave Bahls of Ashley; six grandchildren, Jessica (Will) Goins, Jeremy Bahls, Emily (Jordan) Marshall, Carman (Todd) Fredrick, Zach (Erin) Potter, and Kristen Bahls; 13 grandchildren; seven sisters and one brother, Betty Smith of Kendallville, Frank Kimmell of Columbia City, LaVornia (Richard) Fulk of Rome City, Phylliss (Rex) Cole of Albion, Ola Crain of Elkhart, Sandra Groves of Albion, Sharon (Ron) Karlstadt of Bryan, Ohio, and Gloria Jean Kimmell of Brimfield.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and two brothers, Cecil Kimmell and John Kimmell.

Services will be 2:30 p.m. Sunday, August 14, 2011, at Zion Lutheran Church, West Fairfield, Corunna, with the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating.

Calling is Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, IN, 46706 and also from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Preferred memorials are to Zion Lutheran Church, 0389 C.R. 12, Corunna, IN 46730.

To view an obituary or send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Byron Engler

EDGERTON, Ohio — Byron Lee Engler, age 73, of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 3:10 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at Bryan Care and Rehabilitation Center in Bryan, where he was a patient.

Mr. Engler

Mr. Engler was veteran of the United States Marines serving from 1954-1956.

During his work career, he was a machinist, worked in maintenance and drove semi trucks.

He was a member of the Edgerton Church of Christ, American Trapshooting Association, Bryan Loyal Order of the Moose and Fraternal Order of Eagles, in both Bryan and Butler, Indiana.

He was a avid sportsman and enjoyed golf, bowling and trapshooting. Byron was among the racing legends in the tri-state area and won track championships at both Avilla and Bryan Motor Speedways. He also had raced motorcycles.

Mr. Engler was a well known musician in the area, playing electric bass and guitar and also entertained with his own band, the Byron Engler Country Rock Sound Band.

Byron Lee Engler was born on October 17, 1937, in Edgerton, Ohio, the son of K.O. and Opal (Blosser) Engler. He married Judith A. Rutledge on November 13, 1961, in Covington, Kentucky, and she survives.

Also surviving are his mother, Opal Engler of Edgerton; three daughters, Shari (Dan) Gnagy of Angola, Indiana, Rebecca (Dale) Mason of Edgerton and Victoria Martin of Bryan; three grandchildren, Joshua and Jordan Mason and Keeley Augsburger, a brother, Denny Engler, of Edgerton, three sisters, Kay Dennis and Kathy (Keith) Whitman, both of Edgerton, and Karen (Bob) Kensill of Rincon, Georgia; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, an infant brother, Owen Dale Engler; and an infant nephew, Ricky Lee Dennis.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 14, 2011, from 1-4 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton.

A time of sharing celebrating the life of Byron Lee Engler will follow in the funeral home beginning at 4 p.m.

Interment will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Memorials are requested to the Edgerton Area Food Bank or to the American Cancer Society.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Robert Jordan

GARRETT — Robert L. Jordan Sr., 83, of Garrett, died Saturday Aug. 13, 2011, at Betz Nursing home in Auburn.

He was born Nov. 10, 1927, in DeKalb County to Elza C. and Carrie B. (Haynes) Jordan.

He was a truck driver for seven years, worked in a boat factory for eight years and was a meat cutter for 25 years at Sutton's Grocery in Waterloo and other independent local grocery stores in the area before retiring in 1989. After retiring he worked as an image coordinator at the Auburn Shell Station.

Mr. Jordan

He was a former member of the Auburn Kiwanis Club and the St. Joe Lions Club. He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren. In his spare time he loved to work on word search puzzles.

Robert married DeMaris A. Foster on Feb. 10, 1991, in DeKalb County and she survives in Garrett. He also is survived by two sons and a daughter, Robert L. Jordan Jr. of Avilla, Daniel W. (Pam) Jordan of Garrett and Mary Frances Menjivar of Butler.; three stepsons and a stepdaughter, Mike Foster of Spring Arbor, Mich., Jim Foster of Hillsdale, Mich., Marvin (Margie) Foster of Auburn and Barbara Rider of Auburn; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and three brothers, Junior Jordan of Helmer, Franklin Jordan of Auburn and Dallas Jordan of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Loyal Jordan and Donald G. Jordan, and a sister, Helen Workman.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Rev. Duane Grady officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made in Robert's name to Alliance Industries of Garrett.

Condolences may be left at www.fellerandclark.com.

Mary Smith

AUBURN — Mary J. Smith, 89, of Auburn and formerly of LaGrange, died Friday Aug. 12, 2011, at 10:19 p.m. at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Carney-Frost Funeral Home, LaGrange. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, LaGrange. Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Geneva Walker

WATERLOO — Geneva R. Walker, 81, of Auburn and formerly of Waterloo, died Friday, Aug. 12, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Walker was a homemaker.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. She also was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Auburn and the Thursday Therapy group.

She was born Sept. 19, 1929, in Auburn, to Cleo and Ola (Ketel) Hamman.

She married Clarence Willard Walker on March 20, 1948. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Jim A. and Jan Walker of Ocala, Fla., Rodney E. and Linda Walker of Auburn, Marc S. and Stephanie Walker of Auburn and Rex A. and Hattie Walker of Waterloo; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a brother, Cleo Ross Hamman; and a sister, Marjorie W. Hamman.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 14 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dennis Robinett

BUTLER — Dennis Elvin Robinett, 55, of Butler, died Friday, Aug. 12, 2011, at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Mr. Robinett formerly worked as a machinist for the Edon Machine Company in Edon, Ohio.

He was born Sept. 3, 1955, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Elvin T. and Wilma L. (Lockhart) Robinett. His father preceded him in death and his mother survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Dennis Robinett of Butler, and Matthew and Breain Robinett of Butler; four grandchildren; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Donald O. and Terrie Robinett of Waterloo, Danny T. Robinett of Hamilton, and Doug W. Robinett of Hamilton; and four sisters and brothers-in-law, Lorna L. and Roger Lytle of Pleasant Lake, Shirley A. and Dave Ritchie of Hamilton, Mary E. and Dan Garman and Kathie J. and Jim Schiffli of Waterloo.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Rev. John Maxson officiating. Burial will be in Edon Cemetery, Edon, Ohio.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Elsie Surber

KENDALLVILLE — Elsie Irene Surber, 93, of Kendallville, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Surber was born in Rockville, Ind., on April 23, 1918, to Herman A. Lear and Edna Frances (Fisher) Lear.

She married George T. Surber on Nov. 22, 1939, in Rockville. He preceded her in death on July 21, 1992.

Mrs. Surber

Mrs. Surber was a homemaker and she and her husband also ran the E & G Ceramics in Fort Wayne for several years in the 1970s.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville.

Mrs. Surber was an active member of the Circle Center Home Demonstration Club. She held many offices with the club over the years. She was also a member of the 52 Club of West Creighton Christian Church in Fort Wayne and the DeMolay Mother's Circle in Fort Wayne.

She was an avid crafter but most of all she was a loving wife and mother.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth W. and Candi Surber of Waterloo; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, George T. Surber; one brother, Wayne Lear; and one sister, Mildred Gross.

Graveside funeral services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne with Pastor Robert Farmer officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Monday from 5-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials may be made to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Condolences may be left at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

James Armstrong

FORT WAYNE — James E. Armstrong, 61, passed away Saturday, August 13, 2011, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Armstrong

Born in Fort Wayne, James worked in the parts department of O'Daniel Motors, and was the former business manager for Evans Toyota. He was a member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church.

Surviving are his sister, Karen E. (Jim) Chandler of Woodburn, Ind.; a nephew, Ryan Chandler of Carmel, Ind.; a niece, Megan Chandler of Auburn; and a great-niece, Cadence McKean.

James was preceded in death by his father, Ervin Armstrong, and his mother, Naomi Armstrong.

His funeral service is at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2011, with Msgr. John Kuzmich officiating.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 East Dupont Road in Fort Wayne.

Additional calling hours are on Tuesday, August 16, 2011,from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, Indiana.

Memorials may be made to the Cancer Services of Allen County, 2925 East State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Diann Gephart

ANGOLA — Diann Rose Gephart, 66, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011.

She was born June 23, 1945, in Decatur to Amrose and AnnaBelle (Rupert) Gase. She married John Robert Gephart on Sept. 28, 1963, in Decatur, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 29, 2008.

Mrs. Gephart

Surviving are a son, Chad Gephart of Wolcottville; two daughters, Tina McCorkle of Nashville, Tenn., and Paula Perry of Waterloo; and two brothers; Ken and Tom Gase of Decatur. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, John R. Gephart II.

Services for Mrs. Gephart will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West St., Angola.

Visitation will be Wednesday from noon to service time. Graveside services will be held at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland.

Memorials are to Project Help.

To leave condolences or view this obituary online go to: www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Lisa Ellis

ANDERSON — Lisa R. (Miller) Ellis, 39, a resident of Anderson, passed away August 13, 2011, peacefully at home surrounded by her family, just the way she wanted. Lisa fought a hard, disappointing 14-month battle against inflammatory breast cancer.

Mrs. Ellis

She was born November 8, 1971, in Marion, Indiana, to Cynthia (Camp) and Larry Miller.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Ellis, who she married on July 24, 1993. Children Mackenzie, Ashlyn, Kamryn and Lucas Ellis also survive.

Also surviving are her mother and stepfather, Cindy and Jerry Reynolds of Middletown, father and stepmother Larry and Jina Miller of Auburn. Sisters, Kim (Greg) Bartrom of Middletown and Laura (Jon) Brewer of St. Petersburg, Fla. Brothers, Adam Miller, (Rob Weese) of St. Petersburg, and Thomas Puckett of Auburn. Uncle, Ron Camp (Marcia Ventura) of Ontario, Calif.

Lisa was a favorite aunt of her nieces and nephews, Taylor and Marley Bartrom and Skylar, Garreck and Jonah Ellis. She is also survived by her in-laws, Glenn and Jean Ellis of Chesterfield and brother-in-law Jason (Adonica) Ellis.

Lisa was preceded in death by her grandparents Mark and Elaine Camp and Ralph and Doris Miller, as well as her aunt Vicki Minnick.

Lisa was a graduate of Highland High School. She earned her Medical Assistant license from Ivy Tech. She has worked as a medical assistant for many years, and most recently worked in the Medical Records Department for Community Hospital in Anderson.

Lisa enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, especially her children. She enjoyed going on their field trips, her oldest daughter's dance and marching band competitions, and just watching them grow up. She liked butterflies, flowers, and being outdoors in the sunshine. Lisa was able to enjoy a trip to Key West with her sister, Kim, and also a recent memorable family vacation to New Smyrna Beach. Lisa was a very special person and will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know her. She was a member of the Greater Light Church of Anderson.

Visitation will be today, Tuesday, from 4-8 pm at the Ballard and Sons Funeral Home, 118 S. 5th St. in Middletown. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the funeral home with the Rev. Michael Johnson officiating.

Burial will be in Miller Cemetery, east of Middletown.

Memorials can be to Ballard and Sons Funeral Home in care of Ellis Family Scholarship Fund.

Online guest book at: www. ballardandsons.com.

Diann Gephart

ANGOLA — Diann Rose Gephart, 66, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011.

Mrs. Gephart

She was born June 23, 1945, in Decatur to Ambrose and AnnaBelle (Rupert) Gase. She married John Robert Gephart on Sept. 28, 1963, in Decatur, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 29, 2008.

Surviving are a son, Chad Gephart of Wolcottville; two daughters, Tina McCorkle of Nashville, Tenn., and Paula Perry of Waterloo; and two brothers; Ken and Tom Gase of Decatur. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, John R. Gephart II.

Services for Mrs. Gephart will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West St., Angola.

Visitation will be Wednesday from noon to service time. Graveside services will be held at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland.

Memorials are to Project Help.

To leave condolences or view this obituary online go to: www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
AUGUST 16 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Richard Kingsley

AUBURN — Richard "Dick" Kingsley, 91, of Auburn died Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Kingsley

Mr. Kingsley was the owner and operator of the Kingsley Grocery Store on Jackson Street from 1947-1965. He then was a Prudential Insurance agent until his retirement.

He was a United States Army veteran serving during World War II.

Mr. Kingsley was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and was a lifetime member of the DeKalb Lodge 214 Free and Accepted Masons.

He was born May 11, 1920, in Fairfield Township in DeKalb County, Ind., to Ernest and Eva E. (Hyucke) Kingsley. He married Martha Jean Beehler in 1976 in St. Joe. She died Feb. 24, 2011.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Grant E. and Michelle Kingsley of Hampton, N.H.; a daughter and son-in-law, Joyce L. and Chuck Summers of Garrett; a stepdaughter and her husband, Jolynn and Pete Byal of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren; and two stepgrandchildren.

A private family graveside service will take place on Wednesday in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn, with Chuck Summers officiating. Military graveside honors will be conducted by the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church in Auburn.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 17 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Philip Ellert

WATERLOO — Philip R. Ellert, 80, of Waterloo went to be with his Lord Monday, August 15, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

He was born June 2, 1931, in Waterloo to the late Raymond J. and Esther M. (Hoffelder) Ellert.

He was a 1949 graduate of Ashley High School.

He was a member of St. Michaels Catholic Church in Waterloo and the Knights of Columbus of Garrett.

He loved to square and round dance.

Philip was a farm mechanic working for Covell Implement in Angola, Interstate Farm Equipment in Ashley and Larry Jacks Repair in Pleasant Lake before retiring in 2010.

He married Margaret Redman on September 6, 1952, in St. Michaels Catholic Church and she survives.

He is also survived by three sons, Thomas (Diana) Ellert of Waterloo, Timothy (Lisa) Ellert of Fort Wayne and Theodore Ellert of Waterloo; three daughters, Elizabeth (Ron) McIntosh of Columbus, Patricia (Eric) Wurst of Grants Pass, Ore., and Deborah (Jerry) Parks of Carbon, Ind.; a brother, Francis (Alice) Ellert of Garrett; a sister, Ann (Richard) Penland of Auburn; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Jeremy Ellert; and a great-granddaughter, Kaylee Phillips.

A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Saturday, August 20, 2011, at St. Michaels Catholic Church in Waterloo with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michaels Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the Mass at the church Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Memorials can be directed to the church or Marianne Badongen Missionary in the Philippines.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 18 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Lois Hetmansperger

AUBURN — Lois C. Hetmansperger, 94, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at Sturgis Hospital in Sturgis, Michigan.

Mrs. Hetmansperger

She was born on June 12, 1917, in Spencerville, Indiana, to the late Menno and Zula (Sponhower) Gerig. She married Duane F. Hetmansperger on August 3, 1966, in the "Little Brown Church in the Vale" in Nashua, Iowa. He preceded her in death on March 4, 2011.

Surviving are her brothers, Rev. Dale (Beth) Gerig of Sturgis, Mich., and Dr. Zenas (Esther) Gerig of Lowell, Mich.; her sister, Adah Ruth (John) Imler of Cirtus Heights, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Mary Gerig of Fort Wayne; a brother-in-law, Marlen (Reta) Hetmansperger of Three Rivers, Mich.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Eunice Gay; and four brothers, Paul, Matthias, Maurice and Ardon Gerig.

She graduated from Spencerville High School and Fort Wayne Bible College. After spending over 15 years as a home missionary in southeastern mountains of Kentucky, she moved to Sturgis, Mich., in 1956 where she worked in the Missionary Church and also for the Kirsch Company for 12 years. She then started the Christian Supply Center where she met her future husband, Duane Hetmansperger. Together they continued the ministry of the store until they retired in 1989 and moved to Auburn, Ind.

After Duane's passing in March, Lois moved back to Sturgis, Mich., at the end of July to be closer to her family.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Lois will be held on Friday, Aug. 19, at 11 a.m. with calling one hour prior at Sturgis Missionary Church, 67080 North M-66, Sturgis, Mich., with the Rev. Shaun Dufault and the Rev. Bob Renner officiating.

Burial will be held at Mendon Cemetery in Mendon, Mich.

Memorials are to the Gideon's International & Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, Ind.

Joan Rhodehamel

WATERLOO — Joan Rhodehamel, 81, of Waterloo died Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was born July 28, 1930, in Portland to John and Dorothy (Reed) Williams.

Joan was a bookkeeper at Auburn City Hardware for a number of years, retiring in 2001.

She was a member of Auburn Church of Christ and the Eastern Star.

She married Charles Rhodehamel on November 24, 1952, in Portland and he died April 26, 2003.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Keith Moughler of Waterloo; two grandchildren, Jon Moughler and his fiancé Catlin Smith of Auburn, Brittany Moughler of Waterloo and a great grandson Quitin Smith.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a granddaughter, Tieme Moughler and a sister Phyllis Leggett.

Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne St., Waterloo with Joseph Heins officiating. Burial in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo. Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to Betz Nursing Home. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Duncan

HAMILTON — Robert L. Duncan, 74, died Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Duncan was a lifetime Hamilton resident.

He was a retired machinist at Engineering Materials in Butler.

Mr. Duncan was a former member of the Hamilton Fire Department.

He was born Nov. 2, 1936, to Glenn and Fern (Stout) Duncan. He married Verda Joyce Hicks in December 1969. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Maurice and Karla Cox of Waterloo and Robert Duncan Jr. and Laura Duncan of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Kevin Skiles of Clear Lake; a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Vickie Duncan of Tampa, Fla.; two sisters, Ellen Duncan of Hamilton and Julie Duncan of Hamilton; 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Fire Department.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Jack Gibson

HAMILTON — Jack Duane "Gibby" Gibson, 77, died Friday, August 19, 2011, at his home on Hamilton Lake.

Mr. Gibson

He was born March 14, 1934, in Portland, Indiana, to John and Crystal R. (Fennig) Gibson. They preceded him in death.

Jack graduated from Portland High School in 1952. While in High School, Jack was an outstanding athlete and received many awards and letters.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked for 10 years as safety director and time study engineer at Portland Forge, Inc. in Portland, Indiana.

He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Ball State University in Industrial Education, Vocational Training, and Physical Education. Also while at Ball State, he was a founding member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. In 1974, he was awarded with a Principal Certificate from Purdue University.

Mr. Gibson started his career teaching and coaching at Hamilton High School in 1970. During his first year as a teacher, he helped implement the ICE and Vocational Programs. He then became Hamilton's first assistant principal in 1976. He also served as Hamilton's head football coach for six years where he was Conference Coach of the Year and Area Coach of the Year in 1973. He was head baseball coach for two years, golf coach for two years, and assistant basketball coach for three years. He was a varsity basketball and junior high football referee from 1977-2010.

In 1977, he moved to Garrett High School where he was assistant principal for 21 years, retiring in 1998. After retirement, he was a WELL program instructor at the Educational Opportunity Center in Angola from 1999-2001. He then taught for Hicksville High School in Ohio from 2001-2002. He also was a local substitute teacher in the Northeast Indiana area.

As a resident of Hamilton, he attended the Hamilton United Methodist Church, and established the Jack D. Gibson Scholarship Fund in 2000. He also was a longtime member of the Hamilton "Polar Bear Plunge Club" with his son Troy from 1994-2011.

He was a member of the Hamilton Park Board, Indiana Teachers Association, and the Cameron Hospital Hospice. He was a past member of the Hamilton School Board from 2001-2009.

He was very active in several organizations, including the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Fish and Game, Hamilton Lions Club, Hamilton American Legion, Garrett Lions Club, Masonic Temple in Garrett, Scottish Rite and Shrine Club in Fort Wayne.

Jack married Betty J. Newell on Feb. 15, 1964, in Salamonia, Indiana. She survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Todd D. and Jenny Gibson of Waterloo, and Troy E. and Kelly Gibson of Bellefontaine, Ohio; six grandchildren, Tanner Gibson, Conner Gibson, Hayley Gibson, Ryley Gibson, Gavin Gibson, and Alanna Gibson; and a sister, Patricia A. Gibson of Portland, Indiana.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday Aug. 22, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Jack Smith officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton with military graveside services being conducted by the U.S. Army and the Hamilton American Legion.

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with a Masonic service being held at 7 p.m.

The family requested that memorials are directed to the Jack D. Gibson Scholarship Fund or the Hamilton Lions Club.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Arlene Wobler

CARMEL — Arlene M. Wobler, 72, of Carmel, died Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, at her residence.

Services have taken place at Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Payne, Ohio, with burial in St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials are to the I.U. Simon Cancer Center for the Breast Tissue Bank, I.U. Foundation. P.O. Box 660245, Indianapolis, IN 46266 0245.

The Dooley Funeral Home, Payne, Ohio, was in charge of arrangements.

Ben Hatton

LAOTTO — Ben E. Hatton, 58, of LaOtto died Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011, at his home.

Visitation will be form 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Swan Cemetery near LaOtto.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The late Ross E. Noble, front right, is shown with his family. Seated, from left, are his wife, Marylin, and Noble; in back, from left, are daughter-in-law Margaret, son Ross L. Noble, son Jay Noble, daughter Gail Edwards, son Ron Noble and daughter-in-law Tena.

He lived his American dream

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — He left for U.S. Air Force basic training when he was 17 years old with a quarter in his pocket and the American dream.

He passed away on July 13, 2011, at 79 years old having achieved his American dream — loving husband for 59 years to his wife, Marylin, father to four, grandfather to 10, great-grandfather to eight, a 21-year Air Force veteran, a patriot, friend to many and a self-made, successful businessman.

Ross Earl Noble had a wonderful life.

Mr. Noble was born in Muncie on Oct. 11, 1931, and graduated from Elwood High School. He wanted to join the Air Force after high school but all the spots were taken, so he joined the U.S. Army. Before he reported, Air Force recruiters came looking for volunteers, because two of their recruits had not passed the test. Mr. Noble volunteered, passed the test and entered the Air Force.

His wife recalled he looked at his recruiter and asked what time they would be finished with his paperwork, because he had a bus to catch. The recruiter looked at him and said: "You're not going home, you're going straight to basic training." Mr. Noble started his Air Force career and adult life with only a quarter to his name and the clothes on his back.

When Mr. Noble and his wife got married in Tipton, they had $100 between them and spent it all on their honeymoon. They started married life nearly broke.

And yet Mr. Noble went on to become a highly respected businessman after he retired from the Air Force. He worked as a hospital maintenance supervisor in Battle Creek, Mich., sold real estate before joining Group Dekko in Kendallville, where he was in charge of PVC Compounders and Hoosier Plastics for nearly 14 years and then served as a consultant to Group Dekko for 10 years. He retired in 1994 from Group Dekko and started Dependable Metal Treating in Kendallville with his son, Ross L. Noble. The company continues its operation today on Dowling Street in Kendallville.

"Ross played a huge role in problem-solving the different facets of the PVC Compounding operation, and the development of UL-approved PVC materials required for wire insulation applications needed for the wire manufacturing," said Rick Nowels of Group Dekko. "He was always meticulous about his work and his home projects."

Mr. Noble was known as a "Jack-of-All-Trades" who could fix almost anything. He mixed his crafty skills with a thrifty attitude. At his funeral service, Pastor Scott Pattison recalled the time when Mr. Noble saw an Ethan Allen table he liked, but it was priced higher than he was willing to pay. "He said, I can build one like that, and he did just that, and it was nicer," said Pattison.

His "can do" attitude was countered somewhat by his wife, who reminded Mr. Noble of two things he could not do: make pies or make a shirt with correctly fitting sleeves.

Mr. Noble was an avid golfer and a charter member of Noble Hawk Golf Links. He would get 6 a.m. tee times so there wouldn't be anyone in front of him, and that became his standing tee time. Nowels was one of Mr. Noble's regular golfing buddies. "Ross always had some weekend project and needed to get the golf done early," he said. Mr. Noble always drove the golf cart.

Nowels saw the humorous side of Mr. Noble's character.

"I believe Ross remembered every joke he had heard in his life," he said. "It wouldn't be long until something was said to remind him of one, and the next one and the next one. We would be laughing beyond any hope of concentrating on our golf game."

He enjoyed playing cards, writing poetry and fishing. He always drove the boat.

Mr. Noble was a member of American Legion Post 86 for more than 50 years, a life member of Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 and the Air Force Sergeant's Association, and a member of the Kendallville Elks and Moose lodges. His granddaughter, Linda Noble, said she couldn't believe how many people knew her grandfather. "It amazes me the random people that knew him and tell me a nice story about him when I see them," she said.

On a plaque given to Mr. Noble by his daughter, Gail Edwards, it is written: "I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon if I can. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk, to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. … It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself; enjoy the benefits of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done. All this is what it means to be an American."

Mr. Noble is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

J.J. Kimpel

BUTLER — J.J. Kimpel, 90, of Butler died Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

He was born May 14, 1921, in Williams County, Ohio, to Gottlieb L. and Sadie (Favorite) Kimpel.

He was a retired Franklin Township farmer. He was a World War II U.S. Army Veteran. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Edgerton, Ohio; Waterloo VFW and Butler American Legion.

He married Berdena Bonell Souder on September 25, 1943, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Edgerton, Ohio, and she died May 6, 1996.

J.J. is survived by two sons, Dennis Kimpel of Goshen and Kenneth Kimpel of Columbia City; a number of grandchildren and a sister Gertrude Studer of Edgerton, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a sister and two brothers.

Services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial in Butler Cemetery, Butler. Calling is two hours prior to the service from 12-2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to Zion Lutheran Church, Edgerton, Ohio. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 21 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jean Wasson

AUBURN — Jean W. Wasson, 88, died Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

He was born Oct. 23, 1922, in Fort Wayne to the late Ray W. & Gladys (Watson) Wasson. He married Hilda McNamara on April 27, 1944, in Leo. She preceded him in death on April 12, 2009.

He worked in quality control for Warner Gear for 36 years before retiring in 1982. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of the Dayspring Community Church in Auburn.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Thomas D. & Becky Wasson of Auburn and Steven Wasson of Avilla; a daughter, Susan Bailey of Huntington; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a sister, Barbara Coplin of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by a son-in-law, David Bailey; a daughter-in-law, Sharon Wasson; and a sister, Margaret Williams.

Private family services will be at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville. Burial will be in White City Cemetery, Spencerville.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

STAR
AUGUST 22 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dr. Max Milks

GARRETT — Max Cleveland Milks, Ph.D., 64, of Garrett, died at 10:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Marion

Dr. Milks

He was born Jan. 25, 1947, in Garrett, to Max and Ethel (Palmer) Milks.

He held a doctorate in clinical philosophy from Westbrook University.

He was an addictions counselor and a former Garrett and DeKalb County police officer. He was an U.S. Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Garrett American Legion Post 178.

He is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie and Chad Werkheiser, and Catina and Dave LaMotte, both of Garrett; and two sons, Christopher Milks of Columbus, Ohio and Leon Lovett of Theodore, Ala.; and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, at Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Thomas Funeral Home with Brother Bud Owen officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett, with military graveside services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW and the U.S. Air Force.

Memorials are to Garrett Fire Department; Garrett American Legion Post 178; or Garrett Boys Baseball, P.O. Box 353, Garrett, IN 46738

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Joyce Wirts

AUBURN — Joyce Allison Wirts, 83, of Auburn died Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wirts

Mrs. Wirts worked for the Auburn Rubber Company for four years and for the Messenger Corporation in Auburn for 15 years, retiring in 1980.

She was born Jan. 9, 1928, in Auburn.

She married Gale D. Wirts on Jan. 16, 1946, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Randy Coleman of Auburn; a granddaughter and her husband, Michelle and Paul Dapp of Garrett; and five great grandchildren, Tyler Coleman, Kara Coleman, Marissa Coleman, Noah Dapp, and Evan Dapp.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lonnie Morgan and Violet (Daub) Morgan Funk; and a grandson, Jason Coleman.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 9-11 a.m. Thursday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to St. Martin's Health Care Services in Garrett.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
AUGUST 26 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Carol Woods

GARRETT — Carol A. Woods, 64, of Garrett died at 5:32 p.m. Wednesday at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Visitation will be from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 2:30 pm. Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice.

Ronald Olds

BUTLER — Ronald M. Olds, age 92, of rural Butler, Indiana, died at 8:50 a.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler where he was a resident.

Mr. Olds was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during World War II.

He had resided on the family farm established by his grandparents since 1947. He was a lifelong farmer who also cut and sold fire wood for many years.

Ronald was a member of Zion United Methodist Church of rural Butler.

Ronald Olds was born on May 3, in St. Joe Township of Williams County, Ohio, the son of Carl and Vertie (Kaiser) Olds. He married Lucile Eddy on June 29, 1947, near Butler, Indiana, and she preceded him in death in 2000.

He was also preceded by his sister, Wilma Wolf.

Ronald is survived by one niece, Anna Lee Weilbaker, of Crown Point, Indiana; six nieces and nephews from his wife Lucile's family, Roma Lee Perez, of Edgerton, Ohio, Elizabeth Eddy Haughton of Andrews, North Carolina, Latriealle Wheat, of Angola, Indiana, Sandra Eddy, of Fort Collins, Colorado, Nelson Eddy, of Hamilton, Indiana, and William Eddy, of Fort Collins, Colorado; and 12 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services for Ronald Olds will be Sunday, August 28, 2011, at 2 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio, with Pastor Jack Smith officiating. Burial will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton, Ohio.

Visitation will be in the funeral home one hour prior to the service, beginning at 1 p.m.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials in the name of Ronald Olds may be given to a charity of the donor's choice.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit krillfuneralservice.com.

STAR
AUGUST 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Longtime businessman known for humor

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Robert Karst was a businessman who started the Angola Elks Club and was known for his one-line zingers.

Mr. Karst, 79, of Angola died Aug. 4, in Angola, from kidney cancer.

He was a longtime area businessman, who owned and operated Karst Equipment, Covell Implement, Year Round Fun, and Bill's Liquors. He also worked at International Harvester in Indianapolis.

He was born Sept. 15, 1931, in Huntington to Marcellus and Dorothy (Strader) Karst, but grew up in Madison, the same town as Frances Foxworthy. The couple met at Crystal Beach swimming pool and were married two years later on Aug. 21, 1955. She survives in Angola."When you dated it was assumed (you'd marry) in those days," she said.

He started the Angola Elks Lodge, where he was a member and past exalted ruler twice. He also served as a past district deputy. Both hoop shoots and the scholarship fund were important to him. "He started the Elks in Angola," Frances said. She said since he was a good salesman, he was able to raise a considerable amount of money for the scholarship fund over the years. "He was a member in Ohio. Elks was his life."

Mr. Karst was an Eagle Scout in 1947.

Since he was a businessman, Mr. Karst felt it was important to be active in his community. He was also a member of the Angola Moose Lodge, Angola Rotary, Angola American Legion Post 31, the George Anspaugh VFW Post and a former member of the Angola Masonic Lodge 231.

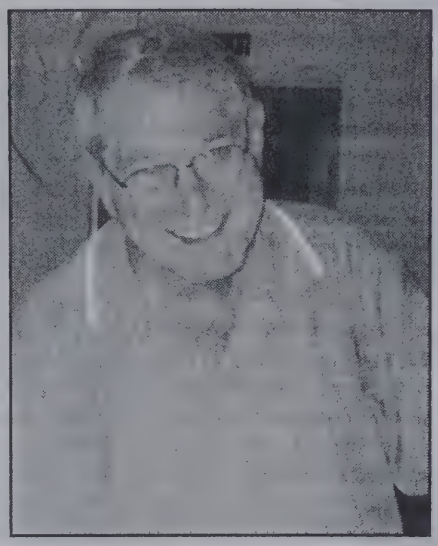


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Karst

Mr. Karst was a master sergeant U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War from 1949-53. He worked on the Berlin Airlift and was a political prisoner in Spain, after getting his airplane confiscated.

Once he got out of the service, Mr. Karst earned his education, graduating with a mechanical engineering degree from Purdue University. "I taught school in Lafayette. After he got out of the service, I made him go back to school," Frances said.

Mr. Karst gave counsel to his children with some of his following phrases that exhibited his sense of humor: "people in hell want ice water too," "wake up and pee, the world's on fire," and "who's the best-looking guy in town and why am I?"

One of his two daughters, Celia Sheets of Angola, recalled her father enjoyed swimming, as the family had a swimming pool. "He was dad. He was always there," Sheets said. "He always cried at old movies. He also liked to gamble. At Purdue, he hocked the typewriter to gamble, but won and got it back. He never judged anyone. He was friendly and always introduced himself to new Elks."

Mr. Karst enjoyed having annual fish fries. Friends would ice fish and donate their catches toward a huge fry.

"He always had a recliner. When we were growing up, if you were in his chair, you'd jump up," Sheets said. "We'd fight over who got to sit in his chair when he wasn't in it."

Mr. Karst also loved the Cincinnati Reds, golfing and fishing. His family even has a photo of him playing golf once with former Vice President Dan Quayle and U.S. Sen. Dan Coats.

Mr. Karst was cremated. A memorial service for him was recently held at the Angola Elks Club and Frances said it was well attended, as her husband definitely loved people.

Memorials may be made to the Elks Scholarship Fund.

STAR
AUGUST 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Josie O'Dell

AUBURN — Josie O'Dell, 99, of Avilla and formerly of Auburn, died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011 at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was a homemaker, and also managed the Lords Dress Shop in Auburn for 13 years before retiring in 1978.

O'Dell

Mrs. O'Dell was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born Jan. 6, 1912 in Sidi Bel Abbis, Algeria, to Christopher and Isabel (Vanpouk) Albacete. She married James O'Dell on Aug. 13, 1945 in Oran, Algeria. He preceded her in death on Dec. 6, 1994.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Robert Blotkamp of Auburn; a son, Grover O'Dell of Auburn; 21 grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death in addition to her husband were: her parents; a daughter, Nicole York; two sons, John O'Dell and Raoul O'Dell; a brother; and a sister.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the mass at the church. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29, 2011 with the Rosary recited at 5:45 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Society or Masses to the church. To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Nancy Temlin

AUBURN — Nancy A. Temlin, 52, died Monday, Aug. 29, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

She had worked at Tri-Wall in Butler for 20 years.

She was a graduate of Hamilton High School.

She was born on March 28, 1959, in Auburn to Allen and Nora (Shafer) Shipp. She married Karl M. Temlin on Oct. 28, 2005. He preceded her in death on Aug. 19, 2009.

Surviving are a son, Nickolus Stamper of Grafton, Wis.; her mother, Nora Pierce of Longville, Minn,; her stepfather, Les Pierce of North Dakota; her sister, Sandy Shipp of Minnesota; her brother Allen Shipp Jr. of New Haven; and two stepsisters, Cina Osborn of Butler and Angela Mejdrich of Seattle, Wash.

She was also preceded in death by her father, Allen Shipp; and her stepmother, Cindy Shipp.

A memorial gathering will be held from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Memorials are to the family.

Randy Gill

ANGOLA — Randy A. Gill, 55, died Monday, Aug. 29, 2011, at Lakeland Nursing Center.

Mr. Gill worked at Hayes Albion in Bryan, Ohio.

He was born Aug. 14, 1956, in Angola to Arden and Sadie (Monn) Gill. He married Rose M. Fike on June 23, 1984, in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are three brothers, Marlin (Elaine) Gill of Angola, Dennis Gill of Ohio, and Kevin (Kim) Gill of Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Marvin Gill, and a sister-in-law, Ilene Gill.

Funeral services will be at 5 p.m. Thursday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Angola.

Visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. Thursday prior to the service.

Memorials are to Steuben County Cancer Association or Cameron Home Health-care and Hospice.

To leave condolences or to sign the guest book go to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 1 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Ricky Kemery
Valerie Kemery

GOLDEN VALLEY, Ariz. — Ricky A. Kemery, 59, and Valerie J. Kemery, 57, of Golden Valley, Arizona, and formerly of Auburn, died August 15, 2011, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

R. Kemery

V. Kemery

Rick was retired from Eaton Corp. in Auburn and Valerie was a homemaker in recent years.

Rick was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1972.

Rick was a member of the American Legion in Auburn, Ind., and Kingman, Ariz.

They were members of the Kingman Church of the Nazarene in Kingman, Ariz.

They were active members of the Patriot Guard Riders in Arizona.

They were married July 15, 1978, in Auburn.

Surviving them are Rick's mother and stepfather, Sandra L. and Lowell Deem and their children; a daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Mike Wasnich; a daughter and her fiance, Terrie A Kemery and Stacy Sexton; a daughter and her fiance, Michelle J, Schiefelbein and Clint Hess; a son and daughter-in-law, Shaun and Kylie Kemery; and a daughter and her companion, Sarah L. Hornett and Allen Sexton.

They had 10 grandchildren and six stepgrandchildren.

Also surviving Rick are one brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Darla Kemery, and a sister and brother-in-law, Tammy and Lloyd Lalone.

Surviving Valerie are a sister, Marsha Klug, and two brothers, W. Joe and Scott Elliott.

Valerie was preceded in death by her parents, J. Patricia and LaRue "Lee" Springman, and Vernard and Linda Elliott; and a brother, V. Wayne Elliott.

Rick was preceded in death by his father, DeWayne M. Kemery.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, 2301 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m., prior to the service at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Sandra Deem.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Condolences can be posted to www.mem.com.

Jon Greim

SPENCERVILLE — Jon Edward Greim, 62, of Spencerville died on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Greim

He was born January 12, 1949, the son of the late Richard P. and Virginia E. Greim.

He graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington with a B.S. in geology. For 25 years he was employed by Almet, Inc. where he advanced to president and CEO. Upon his resignation, he accepted employment as general manager of PWC Fabrication, a division of Don R. Fruchey, Inc. He was also president of Evergreen Manufacturing & Sales, Inc.; a small family run business.

He was raised a Master Mason in Sol D. Bayless Lodge 359, Fort Wayne and is a Past Master and secretary. He was a member of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne, where he was elected and served as Sovereign Prince. He was elected to receive the honored 33rd Degree and was crowned on August 29, 2006, in Chicago. He was appointed to serve as a Deputy's Representative for the state of Indiana. On June 25, 2011, he was presented with the Sovereign Grand Commander's Distinguished Service Medal making him only the fifth Indiana Freemason to receive this award.

He was also a member of Fort Wayne York Rite, Mizpah Shrine and elected for membership in Red Cross of Constantine. Because of Freemasonry, he became involved in several service clubs. He served on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne Board of Directors for several years including two terms as president. He served as president of the St. Joe Lion's Club, Northside Optimist Club and Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society.

He also took great pride in having helped organize and contributed to the "Tiger Forest" habitat at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in memory of his parents. Other interests he had included collecting rocks and minerals, lapidary work, gardening and RV traveling.

He held membership in the Model A Club of America and enjoyed his 1930 Model A.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Hicksville, Ohio.

His family includes his wife of 35 years, Audrey Sue (Baker) Greim; his children, Russell (Lynn) Greim, Aaron (Melissa) Greim, Barron, Wisconsin, and Melody Churchill, Bloomington, Indiana; and his brothers, Jeffrey Greim of Fremont and James (Susan) Greim of Fort Wayne.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at D. O. McComb and Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, with calling one hour prior. The Rev. Jim Paulson will officiate.

Viewing will be from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at the funeral home with a Masonic Service at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 3 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Joe Mishler

FORT WAYNE — Joe Mishler passed away Thursday, September 1, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Mishler

Joe was born in Nappanee on October 25, 1923, and lived most of his life in Arcola before moving to Fort Wayne.

He served in the Army as a Paratrooper in the 511th Airborne 11th Division.

He also proudly served as a volunteer fireman with the Arcola Volunteer Fire Department.

He was a member of the Wallen Baptist Church, VFW Post 857 of Fort Wayne and Teamsters Local # 414.

Joe married Mary Tucker on April 6, 1956, in Elkhart and she survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are his children, Marcia (Jeff) Brown of Fort Wayne, James Tucker of Ossian, Steve (Jane) Mishler of Fort Wayne, Debra (Ron) Chandler of Fort Wayne, and Sandra (Aimee) Mishler of Fort Wayne; a brother, Mose (Freda) Mishler of Missouri; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Emma (Schmucher) Mishler; a son, John Mishler; four brothers, Harvey Mishler, Sam Mishler, Daniel Mishler and John Mishler; and three sisters, Mary Lambright, Katie Maust, Elizabeth Mishler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Calling is Tuesday from 4 to 8 p.m. and also Wednesday 1 hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Preferred memorials are Wounded Warriors or WWII Memorial Honor Flights.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 4 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Bryant a joker, had heart of gold

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN —Mark Bryant was a practical joker with a heart of gold who enjoyed serving others and partaking in any — and every — outdoor activity.

Mr. Bryant, 53, of Auburn died June 17 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Bryant was born March 15, 1958, to Glen and Mary Bryant. He grew up in Portland in a tight-knit family with two brothers and three sisters. He attended Purdue University where he majored in engineering before moving to Houston and New Mexico for work.

A job at Magnavox brought Mr. Bryant back to Indiana where he met his wife, Jan.

"Mark came in as an engineer and we started out as friends," Jan said. "He was such a polite, caring and giving person."

It wasn't long before Mr. Bryant proposed on Christmas day. But, the proposal wasn't of the traditional variety. Instead, Jan said her husband used the opportunity to play a joke on her.

Instead of a dainty ring-size box, Jan said, he presented her with an enormous box filled with packing peanuts, packing tape — and even bricks — among other wrapped boxes. She had to unwrap each box until she found the ring. At which time, he promptly proposed.

The two were married May 10, 1986. They welcomed two children, Jessica and James P.

"He loved being a dad. He took (the kids) with him pretty much everywhere he could," Jan said. He also enjoyed taking the children camping, reading them bedtime stories when they were younger and helping to get them off to school in the mornings, she said.

Soon after having kids, her husband began working as a dispatcher for the city of Auburn, Jan said. He also worked as a DeKalb County Sheriff department's reserve officer. Eventually he also became a volunteer firefighter with the Auburn Fire Department.

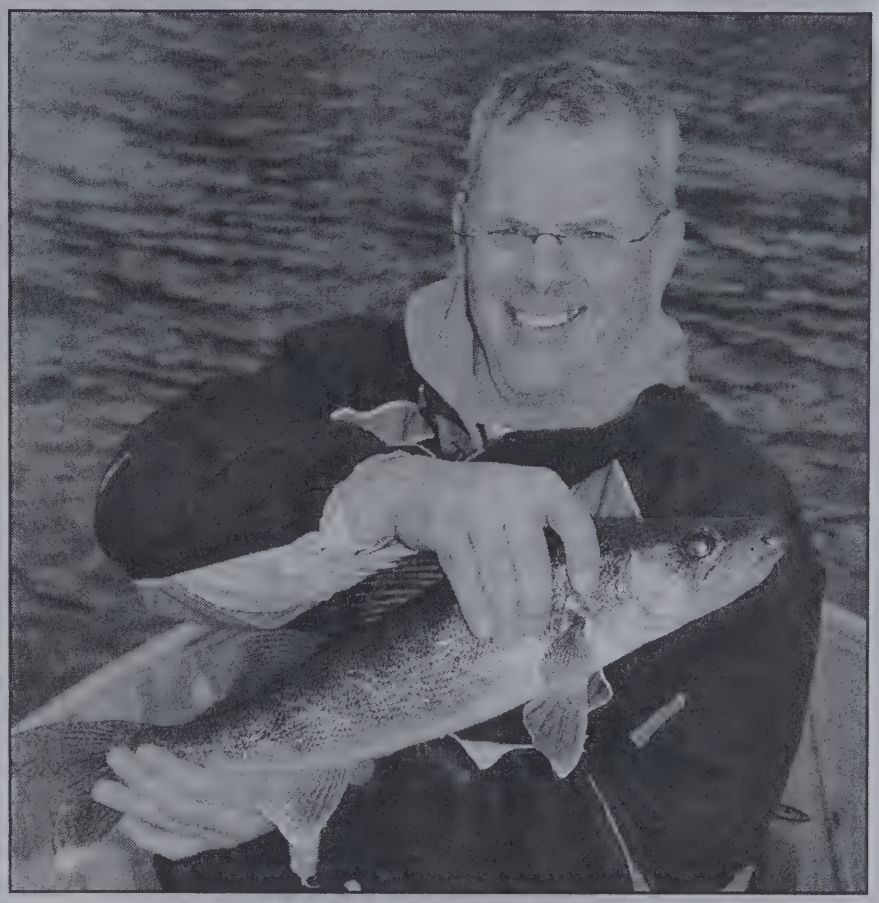


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mark Bryant poses with his catch after a day on Lake George. Bryant's wife, Jan, said he enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing and more.

Jan said he worked or volunteered in each of those positions because of his love of service.

"Anything Mark could do to help others, he would do," she said. "He just wanted to be involved. If he could make things easier for someone, he would do it."

Mr. Bryant eventually took a job at Zimmer Inc., in Warsaw where he worked in the orthopedic implant field. He ended his career as the director of engineering at Pioneer Surgical in Marquette, Mich. Jan said she estimates her husband held between 40 to 50 patents on various orthopedic devices, tools and implants.

Co-worker Scott Gareiss said he was always trying to figure things out.

"I walked into (Mark's) office once to find a metal measuring tape disassembled on his desk," Gareiss said. "I thought maybe he was up to something pretty cool for a customer project so I asked him what he was working on. His answer — 'Nothing, I just wanted to see how it worked.'"

"He was an idea guy," Jan agreed. "He loved his job and making life better for people."

In his free time, Jan said her husband loved being outdoors. He was an avid gardener, putting in most of their home's landscaping himself. He also enjoyed water skiing at the lake, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling in Michigan's upper peninsula and downhill skiing.

"One of his favorite things to do was hang out and go skiing at his sister's lake cottage on Lake George," Jan said.

Tracey Vanscoder

AVILLA — Tracey Lynn Vanscoder, 37, of Avilla, died Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Tracey was born in Fort Wayne on Aug. 23, 1974, to Robert L. Miller and Susan A. (Peterson) Stafford.

She graduated from Snider High School in 1992. She went on to graduate from Ball State University in Muncie in 1997 and from Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, with a degree in nursing.

Tracey married Robert Joe Vanscoder on Sept. 16, 2000, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. He survives in Avilla.

Mrs. Vanscoder

She was a Registered Nurse and worked at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville in the surgical department for several years.

Tracey was an active member of the Grace Christian Church in Kendallville where she was very involved with vacation bible school and children's church.

She loved the game of soccer, loved her dogs and most of all loved life and being with her family.

Surviving are her father, Robert L. and Johnna Miller of Avilla; mother, Susan A. and Ron Stafford of Payne, Ohio; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bob and Mary Vanscoder of Ossian; two daughters, Kari and Israel Nickles of Fort Wayne and Meggan Vanscoder of Leo; one son, Nicholas Vanscoder of Avilla; one granddaughter, Lucy Nickles of Fort Wayne; four sisters, Tiffany and Donte Turner of Muncie, Sandy and Shawn Pfefferkorn of Auburn, Stacy Miller of Auburn and Elizabeth DeLucenay of Cleveland, N.C.; one brother, Cole Stafford of Warsaw; one sister-in-law, Angie Schultz of Ossian; two maternal grandmothers, C. Ann Peterson of Russell Springs, Ky., and Martha Stafford of Fort Wayne; two paternal grandparents, Lavina Miller of Fort Wayne and Billie and Dick Gienger of Avilla; one great-grandmother, Marie Heller of Avilla; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Grace Christian Church, 126 E. Mitchell St., Kendallville, with Pastor Chris Mosley officiating. Burial will be in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Avilla.

Calling will be Monday from 1-6 p.m. at the church.

Memorials may be made to College Fund for Nick Vanscoder or Grace Christian Church for Pro Life.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Tracey by Monday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Dennis Close

AUBURN — Dennis "Denny" E. Close, 64, passed away Friday, Sept. 2, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Close

Born in Fort Wayne, Denny graduated from South Side High School. He then joined the Air Force and served for four years.

He received an associate's degree from Indiana Business College. He worked for 10 years at International Harvester, then 16 years at Central Supply, retiring in 2009.

Denny had been working for FedEx part time and loved his time there. He was a dedicated member of The Pointe Church in Fort Wayne. Denny was a kind-hearted loving man who enjoyed traveling in his RV, being near the water at his Florida home, watching NASCAR, his golden retriever Bailey, but most of all his family. He loved his family and cherished his 11 grandchildren.

Surviving are his loving wife of 22 years, Sandra Close of Auburn; children, Cari (Adam) Seidel of New Haven, Kim (Sean) Watkins of Fort Wayne, Christy Close of Ashley and Kristina (Dennis) Brockhouse of Auburn; brothers; Roger (Phyllis) Close of Woodstock, Ill, Mike (Candi) Close of Indianapolis, Mark (Ruena) Close of Phoenix, Ariz. and Ronnie Cook of Van Wert, Ohio; sister, Patricia Knupple of Van Wert; and 11 grandchildren.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Marjorie Close.

He will be missed by family and friends that loved him.

Services are Wednesday at 11 a.m. at The Pointe Church, 5335 Bass Rd., with calling one hour prior, with Pastor Ray Harris officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 6:30-9 p.m. at The Pointe Church.

Memorials may be made to The Pointe Church or SPCA.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Robert Hartwig

FORT WAYNE — Robert F. Hartwig, 84, of Fort Wayne, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Mr. Hartwig

He was born Feb. 25, 1927, in Fort Wayne.

He retired in March 1985 from Navistar International after 30 years of service.

He was a charter member of Fort Wayne Flying Circuits and also a member of Plymouth Congregational Church, UAW Local 305 and American Legion Post 420, Monroeville.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joan Hartwig of Fort Wayne; children, Pamela (Steve) Slentz, of Waterloo and Cindy (Michael) King, of Fort Wayne; grandchildren, Courtney Klopfenstein, Alex Klopfenstein, Cody (Rachael) King and Lincoln Slentz; great-grandaughter, Macie Joan Hall; and brother, John "Jack" (Joan) Hartwig, of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Edith Hartwig and brothers, Richard (Louise) and James (Gloria) Hartwig.

A memorial service will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. at Klaehn, Fahl and Melton, Winchester Road Chapel, 6424 Winchester Rd., Fort Wayne, with calling from 1-5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Plymouth Congregational Church, Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home or Fort Wayne Flying Circuits.

Condolences may be left at www.klaehnfahlmeltonfunerals.com.

Willa Wright

AUBURN — Willa Dean Wright, 89, of Auburn, died Sunday, September 4, 2011 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wright was born in Bethpage, Tenn. on March 28, 1922, to Haskell and Ottie (Cook) Pedigo. They preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her husband Frank M. Wright who passed away July 5, 1997, a son Frank M. "Buddy" Wright, Jr., two sisters Rithline and Helen, and a brother Haskell Pedigo, Jr.

Willa was a supervisor for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Md., for over 20 years, retiring in 1988. She was a member of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn.

She is survived by a daughter, Nadia (Glenn) Mundroff, Auburn; two grandsons, Robert (Brenda) Mundorff, Fort Wayne, and Bill (Michelle) Mundorff, Batesville, Miss,; five great grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Darvial Bishop, Covington, La., Wayne Pedigo, Lakeland, Fla., Bobbie (Joyce Ann) Pedigo, Clarksville, Tenn., Shirley Veazey, Bowling Green, Ky., and Eddie (Paulette) Pedigo, Lake Mary, Fla.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 8, 2011 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn, IN, with Rev. Steven Kummernuss officiating.

Calling is one hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church or ALS Association.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Vachon Jr.

GARRETT — Robert (Bob) Joseph Vachon Jr., 88, beloved brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather died September 7, 2011, at 3:20 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett, Indiana.

Mr. Vachon

Bob was born to Robert and Maude (Shaffer) Vachon on July 16, 1923, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Bob has two siblings, Marilyn Vachon and Richard (Dick) Vachon, who both currently live in Fort Wayne.

Bob was married to Lois E. (Weaver) Vachon on September 6, 1949, and resided with his wife and four children in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

After retirement from the Fort Wayne Community Schools where he taught from 1953 to 1986, Bob and Lois lived in their home on Crooked Lake in Angola, Indiana, where Bob pursued his hobbies of reading, fishing, attending automobile events and spoiling his grandchildren.

Bob was an Army veteran of WW II and a graduate of North Side High School in Fort Wayne, and Indiana University, holding undergraduate degrees in business and education and a master's in education. During his career, he taught at Forest Park Elementary, Lakeside Junior High School and R. Nelson Snider High School.

Surviving are: sister, Marilyn Vachon, Fort Wayne; brother Richard (Donna) Vachon, Fort Wayne; daughter, Denise Vachon (Harry) Kaufman, Atlanta, Ga; sons, Douglas (Dwana) Vachon, Atlanta, Ga; Matthew (Brenda) Vachon Edinburgh, Ind.; Kirk (Mary) Vachon, Garrett, Ind.; five grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

Visitation is from 3-7 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2011, at the Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett , Indiana, with a rosary said at 7 p.m.

Mass will be heard at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 10, 2011, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Garrett, Ind. Burial will take place at Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola, Ind., at a later date.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church or to the American Red Cross.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Carol Harrington

MONTGOMERY, Mich. — Carol J. Harrington, 57, of Montgomery and formerly of Ray, Ind., died Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, at her home.

Mrs. Harrington

Mrs. Harrington was a homemaker. She had previously been employed at Lakeland Nursing Home in Angola, Ind.

She had attended Reading Schools.

Mrs. Harrington attended Let's Talk About Jesus Ministry in Quincy.

She was born Nov. 14, 1953, in Angola to Otis J. and Violet Mae (Lower) Fee. She married Robert Dale "Bob" Harrington on Dec. 5, 1969, in Fremont, Ind. He survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Robert Harrington of Fremont, Otis and Amy Harrington of Montgomery and Mike and Loretta Harrington of Fremont; a daughter, Patty Mason of Montgomery; four sisters, Frances Laws of Waterloo, Ind., Virginia Oberlin of Garrett, Ind., Beverly and Harry Briggs of Brooklyn, and Janet Fletcher of Montgomery; a brother, Donald Fee of Garrett; and nine grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Dick Fee; and a sister, Dorothy Guinn.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with the Rev. Kelly Young officiating. Burial will be in Covenanter Cemetery at Fremont.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Betty Herzberg

BUTLER — Betty Marie Herzberg, nee Deck; age 89; beloved wife of the late Harold L. Herzberg; loving mother of Lanita Loffredo (Bob) Salem, Larry (Kathy) Loffredo, Annette (James) Inzinga, Alan (Pam) Herzberg and Victoria (Matthew) Toler; cherished grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother of 17; dear daughter of the late William and Verna (Zimmerman) Deck; sister of the late Donald (Dorothy) Deck, Helen (Len) Halgren, Pauline (Chalmer) Hough, Gerald Deck, Lucile (Harold) Deck-Haught, Gordon Deck and Richard (Mary) Deck.

Interment Saturday, September 10, at Butler Cemetery, Butler, Indiana.

H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 10 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Robert Obendorf

AUBURN — Robert E. Obendorf, 83, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Obendorf

Robert had served in the U.S. Army.

He retired from Indiana & Michigan Electric Co. in 1989 after 37 years of service.

He was born April 18, 1928, in rural Butler to Frank and Ethel (Green) Obendorf. He married Marilee Mulholland on July 1, 1950, in Angola. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Robert Obendorf Jr. of Birdsboro, Pa., and David (Tammy) Obendorf of Elkhart; a daughter, Diane Obendorf of Butler; two brothers Allen "Pat" Obendorf of Montpelier, Ohio and Richard Obendorf of Butler; two sisters Ruby Gruver of Edgerton, Ohio and Helen Whitman of Auburn; three grandchildren, Jason Obendorf, Christopher Obendorf, and Christina Smith; and a great-grandson, Micah Obendorf.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Russell Obendorf; and two sisters, Dorothy Grubb and Sharon Obendorf.

Funeral services will be Monday at 1: p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday.

Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery with military honors by the Butler American Legion Post 202. Preferred memorials are to DeKalb Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 11 2011 Auburn, Indiana

The word 'joy' characterized Pat Glass

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — "Joyfull" the clown may be gone, but the memories of happy times she brought to others remain her legacy.

Patricia Anne "Pat" Glass, 66, of Kendallville, passed away Aug. 15 at her Kendallville home. She loved the word joy, and it characterized her life, said her son, Craig Glass. She was involved with the High Hopes clowning organization as "Joyfull" the clown. She brought joy to others in hospitals and schools.

Clowning was not the only way she showed how much she cared for others. Pat and her husband, Bill, were foster parents who opened their home to children in need. Craig Glass remembered fondly the impact his parents had on one particular foster child who lived with their family. He later came back to visit as an adult to personally thank Pat and Bill for caring about him and his brother.

Her caring attitude was well-known in the Kendallville community. She was a pheresis donor to the American Red Cross, donating 124 times. She volunteered at Parkview Noble Hospital and Life and Family Services, where she counseled teen parents.

She sang for 30 years with the trio Joy Unlimited at different churches in the area and helped at AWANA for several years.

"Pat loved singing to the Lord," said her friend, Carijane Farmer. Another friend, Marge Kile, recalled singing beside her in the First Christian Church choir, saying, "I liked to sing beside her, because she had a beautiful voice."

Pat had a lot of close friends. Many thought she was their best friend because of the way she made them feel. It was that kind of feeling she shared with others around her that touched many lives. Her pastor, Tom Clothier of First Christian Church, remembered Pat opening her home to him and his family when he became a pastor in Kendallville. He also remembered a time after his mother had died and he had gone to Michigan for the funeral. One of the first people he was met by was Pat.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTI

Pat Glass, third from left, is joined in this photo by Mrs. Glass, Craig Glass and Carol Harvey. her children. From left are, Curt Glass, Carla Spurr,

Pat is remembered by her friends for her countless acts of unselfishness.

"She cared and showed it without a spotlight," said her friend, Ken Conrad.

Connie Lortie, a friend of Pat's for more than 40 years, said Bill and Pat Glass were her neighbors when she moved to Kendallville.

"We spent many nights together eating pizza, which Pat loved cold, and playing cards," said Lortie. "We were in Welcome Wagon together and then moved on to form an Extension Homemakers Club."

Lortie described how her friend Pat loved chocolate — no matter what kind, as long as it was chocolate. They shared many good conversations over cups of tea.

"Pat played a big part in convincing me to go to the blood drive. Carl and I shared the joys of Bill and Pat adopting Carla, Craig and Carol," Lortie said.

Pat's daughter, Carol Harvey, remembered the love and support her mother showed even during the most difficult times. Her mother had a strong Christian faith.

"I know she always prayed for us and her grandchildren continually," said Carol Harvey.

Pat was a mentor for others at her church. Her friend, Donna Conrad, remembered Pat often saying, "I love you, but Jesus loves you more."

Her sister, Sharon Lawrence, said Pat's faith in God was first and foremost in her life, adding, "She would share her love of Jesus with anyone who would listen."

She loved her family, said her son, Craig. She was very proud of her children's accomplishments and encouraged their interests. She attended their activities, musical performances, graduations and marriages.

For her daughter, Carol, the most memorable time with her mother was a trip they took to South Korea in July 2008. Bill and Pat Glass adopted Carol and Craig from Korea in 1975, and it was the first trip back for them.

"We met my birth father for the first time," said Carol Glass. "My mom thanked him for making the choice to give us a better life with parents in America."

"She cared and showed it without a spotlight."

Ken Conrad
Friend of the late Pat Glass

Pat was very proud of her grandson, Caleb, a U.S. Marine currently serving in Afghanistan, said her sister, Sharon, adding that Pat was a "huge supporter of the troops."

After her husband died in 1994, Pat continued to reside in Kendallville and worked at the Family Medical Clinic in Avilla until retiring in 2009.

Reflecting on her mother's life, Carol Glass said: "I miss my mom on Earth, but I know she's singing praises to our Lord in heaven. I lik to think she's part of the welcoming committee in heaven, because she was so good at meeting people and making them feel loved here on Earth."

STAR
SEPTEMBER 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Darlene Smith

WATERLOO — Darlene June Smith, 72, of Waterloo died Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She was born July 5, 1939, in Flint, Mich., to Edward and Florence (Amidon) Barnes. Mrs. Smith married Robert Smith on June 26, 1981 in Waterloo, and he survives.

She was a homemaker and a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two daughters and four sons, Dawn (Karl) Kearns of LaOtto, Tammy (Dan) McCartney of Avilla, Scott (Kate) LaPierre of Fort Wayne, Edward (Tammy) Wiseman of Butler, Greg Johnson of Fort Wayne, and Paul (Jackie) Johnson of Fort Wayne; 24 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert (Lou) Huff of Seattle, Wash.; 2 sisters, Barbara Bauman of Auburn and Bonnie Waffle of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Raymond Huff.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne Street, Waterloo, IN with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 15 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Iva Neumann

KENDALLVILLE — Iva Jane Neumann, 89, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center, Kendallville.

Mrs. Neumann

Mrs. Neumann was a 1940 graduate of North Side High School in Fort Wayne. She moved to the Wolcottville area from Fort Wayne. In 1990 she retired from Park Center in Fort Wayne after 21 years.

She was a member of the Wolcottville United Methodist Church in Wolcottville and the Women's Society at the church.

She was born June 24, 1922, in Fort Wayne, to Gerry and Josephine (McCombs) Tonkel.

Surviving are two sons, Steven E. (Barbara) Neumann of Garrett, and Gary W. (Jacque) Neumann of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Jeanine M. (David) Disler of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth Gallmeier of Noblesville.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Ronald Tonkel and Walter Tonkel; a sister, Donna Fisher; and the father of her children, Edward Neumann in March 2008.

Visitation will be Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Preferred memorials are to the Women's Society at Wolcottville United Methodist Church or to Parkview Noble Home Health and Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Wesley Diehm

KENDALLVILLE — Wesley Diehm, 82, of rural Kendallville, died on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at his home.

Mr. Diehm

Mr. Diehm was born in Auburn, Indiana on November 1, 1928 to the late Vern and Anna Marie (Bauer) Diehm. He married Rebecca Ann Baird on July 2, 1955 at the Wayne Center United Methodist Church near Kendallville. After 51 years of marriage, Becky preceded him in death on May 12, 2007.

Wes was a lifetime farmer and dedicated John Deere tractor man. He enjoyed restoring his old John Deere tractors and collecting model tractors as well. The only new tractor that Wes bought was a Minneapolis Moline in 1971. He also worked at South Milford Grain and Glenn Hossinger Construction.

Wes was a member of the South Milford Volunteer Fire Department for many years and South Milford United Methodist Church. He loved his dogs and being outdoors at the nursing home.

Survivors include: a daughter and son-in-law, Janelle and Jon Teraoka of Waukesha, Wisconsin; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Babs Diehm of Kendallville; four grandchildren, Janessa Teraoka and her finacee Per Lundin of Sala, Sweden, Blake Teraoka of Waukesha, and Mitchell and Cameron Diehm of Kendallville; and a sister, Helen Powell of Kendallville.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Mary Mullins, Dorothy Powell and LaVerna DePew, and two infant brothers.

Visitation is today from 2 to 7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 2 p.m. at the funeral home with Rev. Al Wingfield, Rev. Earl Bolen and Rev. Steve Barht officiating. Burial will be in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, Indiana. Casketbearers will be his grandsons Blake, Mitchell and Cameron, as well as Walt Domer, Jr., Tom Eickholtz, Gale Shultz and Mark Shultz. Honorary bearers will be his nephews Joe Kessler, Johnny Mullins, Jim Powell and Bill Mock along with lifetime friends Wayne Root and Sam Duehmig.

To send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Wes go online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Clarron Tompkins

ANGOLA — Clarron E. Tompkins, 95, of Angola died Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Tompkins

Mr. Tompkins was a leadman at Dana Corporation for 29 and a half years, retiring in 1979.

He was a veteran of the United States Army serving during World War II.

He was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, past member of the American Legion, and a member of National Square Dancing Association for 40 years.

Clarron loved western square dancing and ballroom dancing.

He was born May 15, 1916, to B. Harrison and Arvina (Range) Tompkins.

He married Margaret O'Conner in Tennessee on May 17, 1941, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Pat and Sandy Tompkins of Hudson, David and Becky Tompkins of Hudson, Joe Tompkins of Chicago, Ill., and George and Cindy Tompkins of Auburn; 15 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Barbara Jo Kays; two sons, Vincent Tompkins and Stephen J. Tompkins; a sister, Clara Voiles; and three brothers, Ovid Tompkins, Odie Tompkins, and Royal Tompkins.

A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1039 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with visitation from 10 - 11 a.m. prior to Mass. Father David Carkenord will be officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rosary being recited at 6 p.m. Monday.

Memorials may be directed to Spinal Cord.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 18 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jack Gibson was about living life

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Jack Gibson thumbed his nose at the fact he had Parkinson's disease, dementia and lung cancer and lived his life with a stubborn spirit.

That way included completing the annual Polar Bear Plunge, substitute teaching, being active in the community and enjoying family time.

Jack, 77, died Aug. 19 at his home on Hamilton Lake.

He was born March 14, 1934 in Portland to Jon and Crystal (Fennig) Gibson. They preceded him in death.

In 1952, Jack graduated from Portland High School, where he received many awards and athletic letters.

A U.S. Army veteran, he worked 10 years as safety director and time study engineer at Portland Forge.

On Feb. 15, 1964, Jack married Betty Newell and she survives in Hamilton. "The very first time I laid eyes on him, my angel said, 'That's who you will marry.' His sister worked in the shoe department at Weyler's in Portland. He came in and was sunburned and red as a lobster," Betty said. "He had a yellow convertible and was called 'the bachelor of Portland.'"

The couple's courting lasted almost two years.

After they married, Jack turned to education and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University in industrial education, vocational and physical education. Also at Ball State, he was a founding member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon. In 1974, he was awarded with a principal certificate from Purdue University.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jack Gibson

Betty said students were Jack's life. His career in teaching and coaching began at Hamilton High School in 1970. While there, Jack helped start the Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education and vocational programs. He also taught driver's training there. He became Hamilton's first assistant principal and was head football coach for six years, earning conference coach of the year honors in 1973. He also served as head baseball coach for two years, golf coach for two years, and assistant basketball coach for three years. From 1977-2010, he was a varsity basketball and junior high school referee.

Jack moved to Garrett High School in 1977, where he was assistant principal for 21 years and retired in 1998. He was also a substitute teacher in northeastern Indiana.

A Hamilton resident, Jack attended Hamilton United Methodist Church. He was a longtime member of the Hamilton Polar Bear Plunge Club, with his son, Troy Gibson, from 1994-2011. "In 1994, I talked my dad into it. Dad went every year. From 2000 on, I've been doing it with him," Troy Gibson said. "We wore old tennis shoes and towels and I'd meet him. We walked down the boardwalk and we always wore something bright. Dad always wore a cowboy hat and sweat shirt with all the pins."

Troy Gibson said his father became the ambassador of the Polar Bear Plunge. "I would walk dad into the water waist deep. I'd hold him so we wouldn't get trampled. My son, Gavin, 8, he did it with Dad and I this year. That was really special," Troy Gibson said. "Dad was about living life. He meant so much to so many people. He couldn't sit still."

Jack was active in several organizations including the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Fish and Game, Lions Club, Hamilton American Legion, Garrett Lions Club, Masonic Temple in Garrett, and Scottish Rite and Shrine Club in Fort Wayne.

Jack's oldest son, recalled growing up as an administrator's son and despite that fact, was never given any special treatment. "I had more people say they learned a valuable lesson from him or 'Your dad helped me realize I need to get an education," Todd Gibson said. "He was a teacher first. He had a love for kids. I was the water boy on his team when he was conference coach of the year in 1973."

Burial was in Eddy Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Jack D. Gibson Scholarship Fund at the Garrett High School Guidance Office or the Hamilton Lions Club.

Harry Gilbert

GARRETT — Harry Gilbert, Jr., 85, of Garrett, Ind., died at 11:20 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 at DeKalb Health in Auburn, Ind.

Mr. Gilbert

He was born July 12, 1926 in Auburn, Ind., to Harry and Anna (Daltry) Gilbert St., and they preceded him in death. He married Carolyn J. Huffman on February 16, 1963 in Ohio and she survives in Garrett.

Harry was a tool maker at Warner Gear in Auburn for 31 years, retiring in 1977. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of th Crosspointe Family Church of the Nazarene in Kendallville, Ind., and the National Rifle Association.

Harry is survived by his wife, Carolyn J. Gilbert, Garrett; two daughters, Wanda Gilbert and Carole (John) Petre, Auburn, Ind.; a son, Jim (Cheryl) Gilbert, Corunna, Ind.; two sisters, Gloria Gilbert, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Dolores Combs of Kentucky; two granddaughters, Amanda (Neil) Woodruff, Roanoke, Ind., and Rachelle Gilbert, Boston, Mass.; and a great grandson, Connor Woodruff of Roanoke.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Anna Gilbert Sr.; a son, David Gilbert; a grandson, Ryan Gilbert; and two brothers, Robert and Paul Gilbert.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, September 19, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at the funeral home with Pastor Richard Secor officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with military honors by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County on Pregnancy or the Crosspointe Family Church of the Nazarene in Kendallville.

Lowell Alloway

BUTLER — Lowell L. Alloway, 75, died Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was a retired tool and die maker from Citation Corporation of Butler after 36 years of service, and was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Angola.

He was born on Feb. 1, 1936 in Virgie, Ky. to Joseph and Stella (Elswick) Alloway. He married Myrtle "Mary" Brown on Sept. 29, 1956 in Virgie, Ky. She survives.

Also surviving are: two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and Paul Roberts of St. Joe, and Cheryl and Jeff Hoover of Spencerville; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Darren and Stephanie Alloway of Butler, and Dusty Alloway of Butler; two brothers, Dale Alloway of Columbus, Ohio, and Ronald Alloway of Louisville, Ky.; three sisters, Ruth Johnson of Ecorse, Mich., Wilma Davis and Linda Anderson, both of Pikeville, Ky.; nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011 at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastors Darold Beck and Ronald Moore officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, 2011 and one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Angola Assemby of God Church.

Condolences may be sent online to the family at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 19 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Clarron Tompkins

ANGOLA — Clarron E. Tompkins, 95, of Angola died Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Tompkins was a leadman at Dana Corporation for 29 and a half years, retiring in 1979.

He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during World War II.

He was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, past member of the American Legion, and a member of National Square Dancing Association for 40 years.

Clarron loved western square dancing and ballroom dancing.

He was born May 15, 1916, to B. Harrison and Arvina (Range) Tompkins.

He married Margaret O'Conner in Tennessee on May 17, 1941, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Pat and Sandy Tompkins of Hudson, David and Becky Tompkins of Hudson, Joe Tompkins of Chicago, Ill., and George and Cindy Tompkins of Auburn; a daughter-in-law, Becky Tompkins Mitchel of Ashley; 15 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Barbara Jo Kays; two sons, Vincent Tompkins and Stephen J. Tompkins; a sister, Clara Voiles; and three brothers, Ovid Tompkins, Odie Tompkins, and Royal Tompkins.

A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1039 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to Mass. Father David Carkenord will be officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rosary being recited at 6 p.m. today (Monday).

Memorials may be directed to Spinal Cord.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Lawrence Stockdale

AUBURN — Lawrence LeRoy Stockdale, 75, of Auburn, Indiana, formerly of Hanover, entered this life on Friday, Oct. 25, 1935 in Jefferson County, Indiana, the son of the late Lawrence Walker and Fern Flint Stockdale. He was a graduate of the old Saluda High School where he played center for the boys basketball team and was known as the "Saluda All-Star."

He was united in marriage on Saturday, July 4, 1954, to Bonnie McKeand at the New Bethel Methodist Church by the Reverend Cornett Lewis and to this happy union came three sons to bless their home. He was inducted into the United States Army on July 20, 1954, and served as Private, First Class and was honorably discharged on June 22, 1956. He began a lifelong career in the automotive industry; starting at Volz Chevrolet in Downtown Madison, and later at Bennett Motors and then retiring from Jim Cook Buick in Louisville, Ky. He earned many honors and awards for his performance and success and was a member of several professional automotive industry associations.

He enjoyed playing basketball and shooting pool. He was a member of the American Legion Bowling League and served as secretary for the men's bowling league. He appreciated the steam engines on antique tractors and he enjoyed visiting various museums and events dedicated to them. He enjoyed seeing Europe and the Caribbean with Bonnie but above all else, he enjoyed the time spent with his wife, sons and especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the Madison V.F.W. Post 1969, the Jefferson Post 9 of the American Legion, the Madison Moose Lodge 765 and the Hanover United Methodist Church.

Lawrence died Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, at 5:50 p.m. at DeKalb Health Hospital in Auburn.

Lawrence will be missed by his loving wife: Bonnie McKeand Stockdale of Auburn; his loving sons, Larry Stockdale and his wife, Martha, of Carrollton, Ky., Tommy Stockdale and his wife, Angie, of Knightsdale, N.C., and Dennis Stockdale and his wife, Myra, of Garrett; his loving grandchildren, Christopher Stockdale and his wife, Erika, Nicole Campany and her husband, Mike, Katie Henry and her husband, Ben, Ryan Stockdale, Nicholas Zajac, Cameron Stockdale, Connor Stockdale and Carson Stockdale; his loving great-grandchildren, Alex, Kado, Lillie and Gabriel; his loving brother, Ronald Philip Stockdale and his wife, Mary, of Hanover; his loving sister, Brenda Zimmerman and her husband, Dick, of Alpharetta, Ga.; several nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Walker and Fern Flint Stockdale, and his granddaughter, Amanda Stockdale Walker.

Funeral services will be conducted today at 11 a.m. by Reverend Bud Owen at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Dr., Madison. Interment will follow in the New Bethel Cemetery, Chelsea.

Friends may call today from 10 a.m. until time of the service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

A memorial service was conducted at the funeral home by the V.F.W. Post 1969, on Monday evening, Sept. 19. Full military honors will be conducted at the graveside by Jefferson Post 9, of the American Legion and the United States Army Ceremonial Unit.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley Children's Cancer Research. Cards are available at the funeral home.

Charolette Wallace

AUBURN — Charolette J. Wallace, 87, of Auburn, died Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Wallace retired from Workforce 1 Development in Auburn.

She was born May 24, 1924, in Hamilton, to Donald and Aneata (Nichols) Whitlock. They both preceded her in death.

She married Edwin Wallace on April 9, 1944, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 1993.

Surviving are a daughter, Doneata Fritz of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Robin Wallace of Butler; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday prior to the funeral service.

Memorials may be directed to the American Diabetes Association or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit fellerand clark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 22 2011 Auburn, Indiana

James Huff

GARRETT — James R. Huff, 26, of Garrett died Tuesday Sept. 20, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Huff

He was born in Paintsville, Ky., on June 23, 1985. His parents, Jeff and Elma (Huff) Wickline, survive in Garrett.

He managed the Auburn Pizza King for a time and currently worked as a cook at Mad Anthony Brewing Company in Auburn.

He married Sarah Regenold on Nov. 24, 2007, in Stroh, IN and she survives in Garrett. Also surviving are a daughter, Layla Rose Huff at home; a brother, Cody Wickline of Garrett; a sister, Patricia Norton of Stroh; a grandmother, Sadie Huff of Garrett; and four uncles and four aunts, including (Memaw Onnie) Yvonne Griffith.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Vallis Huff and cousins, Melissa Patrick and Eddie Slone.

His funeral will be 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 26, 2011, at 5 Corners Baptist Church in Wolcottville with the Rev. Clarence Combs officiating. Burial in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is Saturday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn. There is also calling Sunday after 2 p.m. at 5 Corners Baptist Church in Wolcottville with an evening service at 6 p.m.

Memorials can be directed to the Family C/O Feller and Clark Funeral Home to help defray funeral costs.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Ruth Miller

WATERLOO — Ruth Miller, 70, died Wednesday Sept. 21, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was born April 25, 1941, in DeKalb County to Wayne and Zella (Bishop) Ordway.

Ruth worked at Colwell of Kendallville.

She married Charles W. Miller on Oct. 9, 1961, at Cedar Lake Church of Christ and he passed away April 4, 1998.

She is survived by three daughters, Julie (Daniel) Rathburn of Auburn, Lori Miller of Butler and Ami Husted of Waterloo; three grandchildren, Tanner Boman, Mikayla Boman and Bryant Husted; two sisters, Alice (Bill) Hubartt of Waterloo and Kathy Moore of New Haven; two brothers, Keith Ordway (Joyce Shoudel) of Waterloo and LeRoy (Monica) Ordway of Butler; and two sisters-in-law, Janet Ordway of Waterloo and Barbara Ordway of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two brothers, Alfred and Jerry Ordway.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Chaplin Mike Smith officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne or Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 24 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Former St. Joe woman killed

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — A former St. Joe woman and three of her friends were killed in an car accident in West Des Moines, Iowa, Tuesday.

Frances Sechler, 85, died after a semi truck crashed into the car in which she and three other women were riding.

Sechler is the widow of Frank Sechler, the former owner of Sechler's Pickles in St. Joe.

According to reports published in the Des Moines Register newspaper, Sechler and three other women had been at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club in West Des Moines, celebrating the 95th birthday of one of the women.

As the women left the country club Tuesday afternoon, their sedan was slammed into by a semitrailer truck whose driver had run a red light, police said.

Sechler and one of the other women died at the scene. The other two women were taken to local hospitals and died later from their injuries. All the women were wearing seat belts, police said.

The truck driver, Kenneth E. Snow, 43, was not injured, the Des Moines Register reported.

The four women lived at the Lodge of Ashworth, an independent senior housing community in West Des Moines.

West Des Moines police still are investigating the accident.

Robert Eldridge

DELPHI — Robert J. Eldridge, 90, of Delphi, died at 1:52 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Delphi.

Mr. Eldridge

He was born July 17, 1921, to Oliver Perry and Pauline Weihmuller Eldridge.

He was a lifelong resident, of Richland Township in DeKalb County. He attended Garrett High School.

He was in the U.S. Army 345th Engineer General Service Regiment, Company F, serving in North Africa, Italy, and Greece during World War II.

On June 16, 1946, he married Virginia M. Kohl in Waterloo and she died Oct. 4, 1983.

He was a machinist at Falstaff Brewing Company in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1984.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Waterloo, a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers.

He and his companion, Gladys Sanfason, spent the winters in Zephyr Hills, Fla.

Surviving is one son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Sharai Eldridge of Libertyville, Ill.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rita and Steve Smith of Delphi and Rhonda and Mike Thrailkill of Marietta, Ga.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Military graveside services will be Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Abbott Funeral Home, Delphi, is in charge of arrangements.

Concolences may be left at abbottfuneral home@frontier.com.

Kevin Creager

ORLAND — Kevin L. Creager, 49, died Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011, at his home in Orland.

He was born Sept. 4, 1962, in Auburn.

Surviving are his mother, Marilee (Harter) Dangler of Orland; a son, David Creager of Nicholasville, Ky; a brother and sister-in-law, Larie and Denise Creager of Corunna; a sister, Carol Robinson of Muncie; and a half-sister, Andrea Harris of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Creager.

The family will receive friends Sunday from 2-5 p.m., with a memorial service at 3 p.m., at the LaQuinta Inn and Conference Center in Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Steuben County Humane Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Richard Cook

SPENCERVILLE — Richard E. Cook, 82, of Spencerville, died Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.

He was born July 22, 1929, in Auburn to Walter and Luella Cook. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife, Kay (Rohrs); three daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Doug Uhl, Naomi and Loren Nichter and Joyce and Rick Keener; two stepdaughters and their spouses, Maureen and Marc Rothenberg and Alyce and Kevin Yoder; 17 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and four brothers, Donald, Ralph, William, and Robert Cook.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Esther, and son, Randy.

Services are 1 p.m. today at Leo United Methodist Church, 13527 Leo Rd., with calling one hour prior. Pastor Dave Heim will officiate. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery.

Memorials are to the Leo United Methodist Church.

Hockemyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, is in charge of arrangements.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 25 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Max Milks a learned, caring man

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Max Milks, Ph.D, enjoyed his family, his work and rooting for the Indianapolis Colts.

Milks, 64, died Aug. 20 at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Marion.

Milks was a life-long Garrett resident, serving the town in many capacities, his daughter Stephanie Werkhiser said.

Milks was born Jan. 25, 1947, the only child of Max and Ethel Milks. Werkhiser said the only time her father left Garrett was to serve as a weapons specialist in the U.S. Air Force and for college. He returned after serving in the Vietnam War and began to work toward his bachelor's degree at Indiana University.

Milks went on to earn master's degrees from IU and the University of Saint Francis. He later gained his doctorate degree in philosophy from Westbrook University.

"It was almost like he craved education — like he couldn't get enough of it," Werkhiser said.

Milks' daughter, Catina LaMotte, said her father was passionate about higher education, urging each of his children to earn their own degrees.

"He always said, 'The better I make myself, the better I am for other people'," LaMotte said. "And, he was always about bettering himself and having a positive influence on people."

Both daughters agree Milks had an impact on his hometown.

Serving as a mental health counselor, he helped people overcome their drug and alcohol addictions, Werkhiser said. Annually, Milks also worked as a tax preparer, serving many Garrett residents throughout the years. He even acted as a bail bondsman for some time.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Max Milks, center, enjoys an afternoon with his four children.

From left are Leon, Stepahnie, Milks, Christopher and Catina.

His daughters said he was dedicated to his work — whatever the job was.

"He was all about his work," LaMotte said. "Up until three days before he died, he was going back to work."

LaMotte said her dad was a man of routine, who scheduled every day by the hour. He was very ritualistic, making the same trip to the same restaurant on the same day of every week. And, even though he was a divorced father, he always found time to attend his the big events in the lives of his children, Werkhiser said.

"He'd pick me up every Wednesday for ice cream," Werkhiser remembered. "He was always at (our brother Chris') baseball games and even coached Little League. We were still his focus."

The involvement continued with the activities of Milks' grandchildren, LaMotte said. Her dad would make a point to stop by their sporting events, and bragged on them like any good grandfather would.

One other thing Milks always worked into his schedule, LaMotte said, was Colts football games.

"He loved the Colts," Werkhiser said. "He'd watch football on Sunday and text us to tell us about the Colts."

Mostly, though, his daughters say they will remember the patient nature of their dad. He was laid back and didn't get ruffled easily, LaMotte said. Instead of being a strict authoritarian parent, he was patient and kind, always telling his children that everyone makes mistakes.

"He'd often ask us if we learned something from our mistakes," LaMotte said. "He allowed us to make mistakes and was very fair."

STAR
SEPTEMBER 29 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Adelaide Cogley

GARRETT —Adelaide "Toodie" Cogley, 100, of Garrett died on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Miss Cogley

Toodie was born July 16, 1911, in Garrett to the late John and Anna (Gangler) Cogley.

She had been a bookkeeper at Cooper, Brandt, Brunner, Fanber, Gaskill and Hartman in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, the Rosary Society and Harvest House.

Toodie was devoted to her Catholic faith and served as an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a beloved aunt to her many nieces and nephews who enjoyed spending time playing at the Cogley homestead and the park across the street.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Frank and Martin Cogley; and sisters, Beatrice Cogley, Marguerite Cogley, Esther Crow, Kathryn Donahue and Bernadette Dreher.

Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, October 1, 2011, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett at 11 a.m. with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011, from 4-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and from 10-11 a.m. Saturday at the church. A rosary service will take place at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Jean Traxler

AVILLA — Jean Marie Traxler, age 75, died on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at 4 a.m. at the home of her son and daughter-in-law in Waterloo. She had been in declining health for several months.

Mrs. Traxler

She was born on September 18, 1936, in LaOtto (Ege), Indiana, to Lawrence and Beatrice (Lawyer) Schenher.

Mrs. Traxler graduated from Avilla High School in the class of 1954 and on September 27, 1957, she married Richard E. Traxler at the Ege Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Richard died on June 23, 2004.

A lifetime Avilla-Ege resident, in 1978 she went to work for the town of Avilla as a deputy clerk. She was the Avilla Town Clerk for 20 years, being elected in 1983. In 2003, she retired as deputy clerk under Nancy Fischer.

She was a member of the American Legion Post 240 Women's Auxiliary in Avilla, and was a very active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where she was involved in the Rosary Society.

She enjoyed gardening, canning, and used to enjoy playing bingo, sewing and dancing. She also very much enjoyed working at St. Mary's Labor Day Festival.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Tracy Traxler of Waterloo; a daughter, Michele Traxler of Florida; seven grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Georgia Schenher of Ege; and a sister and brother-in-law, Roszann and David Abbott of Fort Wayne.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and a daughter, Cheryl Traxler.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla. Father Ed Erpelding will officiate. Burial following the Mass will be at Ege Cemetery in Ege.

Visitation will be on Sunday from 2-6 p.m. with a Rosary service at 6 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Also visitation is one hour prior to the funeral on Monday.

Please make memorials in loving memory of Jean to the DeKalb Hospice.

To send online condolences and to view a video go to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Erle Andrews Sr.

GARRETT — Erle LeRoy Andrews Sr., age 82, of Garrett, died on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at 12:20 a.m. at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Andrews Sr.

He was born on August 11, 1929, in Garrett and was the son of Laurence and Nona (Quigley) Andrews.

A lifetime Garrett resident, he married Frankie Murphy in Fort Wayne on September 1, 1961. She survives in Garrett.

Mr. Andrews worked at Fruehauf Trailer for 25 years and was a member of First Church of Christ in Garrett.

Surviving are his children, Diana Andrews of Fort Wayne, Lane and Ellen Andrews Sr. of Garrett, Carolyn Lemons of Fort Wayne, Debra Hall of Garrett, and Erle L. and Knoha Andrews II of Kendallville; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Carl Andrews of Garrett.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and siblings, Ralph, Robert and Richard Andrews, and Beverly Tucker.

Funeral service for Mr. Andrews will be on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett. Pallbearers will be Justin Andrews, Zackary Andrews, Bruce Andrews, Lane Andrews Jr., Jacob Picklesimer and Gabriel Picklesimer.

Visitation will be on Saturday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Thomas Wolpert

GARRETT — Thomas A. Wolpert, 65, of Garrett died Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, at his residence.

Mr. Wolpert had worked at Kraft foods for 47 years.

He was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

Mr. Wolpert was a 1964 graduate of Garrett High School and veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was born June 19, 1946, in Garrett to Herman and Helena Wolpert.

Surviving are his wife, Vonda Wolpert of Garrett, and a son, TJ Wolpert, a student at Manchester College.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St., Garrett. Burial will be in Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic Cemetery, Avilla.

Visitation will be from Sunday 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services,502 N. Main St., Auburn, with a Rosary service at 6:30 p.m.

Visitation is also from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Saint Joseph Catholic School or the donor's choice.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

STAR
SEPTEMBER 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

John Johnson

AUBURN — John J. Johnson, 64, of Auburn and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson had retired from G.E.

He served in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Johnson was a native of Garrett.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis D. Johnson; his children, Kim (Teresa) Johnson and Cheri (Darren) Bandt; his grandchildren, Halee, Wynona, Dakota, Allison, Carson, Logan, Shelby and Rachel; and sister, Kathy McCoy.

He was preceded in death by parents, Olis and Dorothy; a brother Tyraunis; and nephew, David.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ascension Lutheran Church, 8811 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery.

The family will great friends one hour before the service.

Memorials are to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

John Johnson

AUBURN — John J. Johnson, 64, of Auburn and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

Mr. Johnson

Born in Garrett, Ind., he had served in the U.S. Army and retired from G.E.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis D. Johnson; his children, Kim (Teresa) Johnson and Cheri (Darren) Bandt; his grandchildren, Halee, Wynona, Dakota, Allison, Carson, Logan, Shelby and Rachel; and sister, Kathy McCoy.

He was preceded in death by parents, Olis and Dorothy; a brother Tyraunis; and nephew, David.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ascension Lutheran Church, 8811 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery.

The family will greet friends one hour before the service.

Memorials are to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Dale Sweet

ASHLEY — Dale W. Sweet, age 91, of Ashley died on Friday, September 30, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mr. Sweet

Mr. Sweet was born in Vigo County, Indiana, on July 23, 1920, to John W. Sweet and Susan Marie (Corzine) Sweet.

He attended Terre Haute Gerstmeyer High School. He was in the Civilian Conservation Corps for a short time before entering the Armed Forces.

Mr. Sweet honorably served his country in the United States Army during WWII.

He married Kathryn E. Wagner on June 23, 1940, in Avilla. She preceded him in death on July 4, 1996.

Mr. Sweet worked as a mail clerk at the Kendallville Post Office for 22 years, retiring in 1984.

He was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville. He was also a lifetime member of the Kendallville VFW Post 2749.

Mr. Sweet enjoyed being a baseball card dealer and collector. He also belonged to a stamp collecting club at the Kendallville Library.

Survivors include a son, Charles Eugene Sweet of Bloomington, Indiana; three daughters, Jane E. Sweet of Hudson, Indiana, Dale Szeman of Ashley, Indiana and Carol A. and Michael Boger of Auburn, Indiana; five grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; a brother, John F. Sweet of Terre Haute, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents; his wife, Kathryn Sweet; two sisters; and two half sisters.

Visitation will be Monday, October 3, 2011, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, October 3, 2011, at 2 p.m. also at the Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Robert Shriner.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana.

Preferred memorials may be made to Autism Society of Indiana, St. John Lutheran Church or the MS Society.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Strawser built his community

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — When he entered a local restaurant for coffee, people shouted his name and pulled chairs out for him to sit next to them.

The entire restaurant would be filled with laughter from the countless stories he shared, recalled his nephew, Steve Strawser, who worked with him in the contracting and construction business.

"It was like 'Cheers' on TV," he said. "Those were the good days for those who were fortunate to know Sherm."

Sherman Franklin "The Pup" Strawser of Kendallville passed away Sept. 8, 2011. He was 84.

Known by many as "The Pup," Mr. Strawser along with his late brother, Forest, began Strawser Brothers Construction in 1952. They purchased the original business, Carl D. Strawser and Sons, which began in 1930, from their father. Sherm Strawser remained active in the construction business until 2008.

Mr. Strawser was from what TV news anchor Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation." He served with the U.S. Army in World War II from 1944-1946 like millions of others in his generation, returned from war and married Marjorie Ann Warble on Dec. 30, 1950, at the Church of Christ in Kendallville. They were married for nearly 61 years.

His generation built America, and Strawser Brothers Construction was among those local businesses that built Kendallville. Early on, Mr. Strawser and his brother's company gained a reputation in northeast Indiana for quality contracting and construction. Two noteworthy projects are the Publix Shopping Center and the new Lutheran Home, now Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

They were hard-working, honest and reliable. Like so many of his generation, Mr. Strawser enjoyed an early morning cup of coffee and chat at a local restaurant before he went to work.

Grandson Corey Smith loved hearing his grandfather tell stories about where life had taken him, especially when they involved fishing. Mr. Strawser enjoyed ice fishing.

"He told me once he was fishing on ice so thin that a large piece broke off, carrying away one of his fishing buddies," said Smith. The stray ice came to rest against other ice, and Mr. Strawser's fishing buddy ran to shore.

Smith recalled another time when his grandfather put his pipe in his coat pocket while ice fishing but forgot to put it out. He smelled something burning and realized it was his coat.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sherman F. "The Pup" Strawser

Mr. Strawser was known for his skill in working with concrete. Many of Kendallville's sidewalks, curbs and gutters and parts of streets, patios, driveways and basement floors were put in or replaced by Strawser Brothers Construction.

"Many a time Sherm would show me the art of troweling cement," said Steve Strawser. "It never took. He always seemed to be following up behind me, leveling the hills and valleys I had left in my path, but he would never get upset."

Smith recalled all the projects his grandfather helped him with around his house.

"Grandpa was always the first to help and the last one standing beside me looking at the final project," he said.

In addition to ice fishing, Mr. Strawser enjoyed taking care of his yard and garden, working on his rental houses, plowing snow in the winter and, of course, pouring concrete.

He loved spending time with grandchildren and family, spending winters in Florida and fall family trips to northern Michigan. He was a member of the South Milford Church of Christ, the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 and American Legion Post 86, both in Kendallville, and the Odd Fellows, also in Kendallville. In a poem he read at his father's funeral, Chris Smith wrote: "To each of us he has loved and cared, and a family, be thankful for the good times we shared."

For Corey Smith, the sound of a Case tractor coming down the road will forever be associated with his grandfather. He spent many boyhood summers at his grandfather's house. Smith said, "I knew this sound meant I was going to be able to climb up in the cab, sit on his knee and carry out whatever task he had set out to do that day."

Mr. Strawser was buried in South Milford Cemetery with military honors.

James Stout

LAOTTO — James Michael Stout, 51, died Friday, September 30, 2011, at his home in LaOtto.

He was born August 13, 1960, in Louisville, Kentucky to Carl M. and Barbara A. (Days) Stout. His mother has passed away and his father survives in Kendallville.

Mr. Stout was a former employee of American City Plumbing.

He is survived by a sister, Pamela L. Babcock of Kendallville, and a brother, Michael John Stout of LaOtto.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, October 8, 2011, at Swan Cemetery, Avilla. Preferred memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Helen Powell

KENDALLVILLE — Helen I. Powell, 90, of Kendallville died on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Helen was born in Auburn on Oct. 10, 1920, to Verne Diehm and Anna M. (Bauer) Diehm. She graduated from Kendallville High School in 1939.

Mrs. Powell

Helen married her first husband, Ralph Powell, April 21, 1940, in Fremont, and he died April 29, 1965. She married her second husband, Clarence Powell, Nov. 3, 1967, in Waterloo, and he died in May of 1993.

She cleaned homes in the Kendallville and Fremont areas for 50 years. She was a member of the South Milford United Methodist Church in South Milford.

Helen enjoyed being with her family and grandchildren. She loved to read and liked being outdoors gardening and growing flowers. She was a very hard worker.

Survivors include three daughters, Carolyn and Joe Kessler of Middlebury, Connie and Roger Sparkman of Kendallville and Bonnie Gainwell of Coldwater, Mich.; eight grandchildren; Robert Kessler, Deborah McKee, Jeff and Michelle Kessler, Kim and Dave Burnson, Todd Powell, Erica Bird and Ryan Weeks, Barry Poynter and Evelyn and Billy Baker; 14 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Ralph Powell; her second husband, Clarence Powell; one daughter, Dorothy Mowery; one grandson, Brian Mowery; one brother, Wesley Diehm; and three sisters, Mary Mullins, Dorothy Powell and Laverna DePew.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at 2 p.m. at the Hite Funeral Home. Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Barbara Cross. Burial will be at the Fremont Cemetery in Fremont.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Alzheimer Association.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Helen by Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Nova Combs

AUBURN — Nova Lee Star Combs, infant daughter of Shelby Combs, died Saturday, Oct, 1, 2011, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was born earlier in the day at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

She is survived by her mother, Shelby Combs of Auburn; grandparents, Jim Combs of Garrett and Lesa Bolen and Tom Perry of Mandale, Ohio; great-grandparents, Louise Bolen of Mandale and Jack and Colleen Shetley of Waterloo; aunt, Felisha Combs of Mandale; and uncle, Terrence Combs of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by great-grandmother Ora Lee Cody and great-grandfathers, Edward Bolen and Bill Cody.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will follow the service in Sedan Cemetery, Corunna. Calling is two hours prior to the service from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family c/o Shelby Combs. To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Stephanie Fugate

GARRETT — Stephanie Nicole Fugate, 18, of Garrett died Tuesday, October, 4, 2011, as a result of an auto accident near Garrett.

She was a Senior at Garrett High School. She loved playing basketball and enjoyed music.

Miss Fugate

She was born July 23, 1993, in Kendallville to Sonny and Crystal (Hunter) Fugate. Her parents survive in Garrett.

Also surviving are a sister, Courtney (Cody) Osborn of Garrett; a brother, Corey (Morgan Husted) Fugate of Garrett; a niece, Sunnie Lynne Leon of Garrett; a nephew, Conrad Hunter Osborn of Garrett; maternal grandparents, Gary and Rema Hunter of Kentucky and Bill and Pam Bates of Kentucky; paternal grandmother, Kathy Fugate of Garrett; paternal stepgrandmother, Laura Fugate of Kendallville; maternal great-grandmother, Margaret Slone of Kentucky; and paternal great-grandmother, Mae Combs of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Cody Fugate in 1992, and paternal grandfather, Jenings "Sonny" Fugate in 2006.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 7, 2011, at 11 a.m. in Harbor of Love Baptist Church, 2353 South Lima Road, Kendallville, with Pastor Charlie Mosley of Harbor of Love Baptist Church and Pastor Terry Hinds of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Wolcottville officiating. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling is Thursday, October 6, 2011, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the church, where there will be an evening service at 7 p.m.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

View a video tribute after Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

David Light

WATERLOO — David H. Light, 56, of Waterloo died Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born July 18, 1955, in Angola to Roscoe Norman and Mary June (Mains) Light. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons, Willus Light of Waterloo and Kris Light of Waterloo; a daughter, Brandy Erne of Garrett; three brothers, Dean Light of Angola, Don Light of Angola, and Norman Light of LaGrange; and two sisters, Nancy Brammall of Angola and Deb Casselman of Hamilton.

He was also preceded in death by a son, David Light, and a sister, Beverly Carter.

No calling or services are planned.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Stauffer

AUBURN — Robert D. (Denny/Bob) Stauffer, 59, of Auburn (formerly of Fort Wayne) born in Woodburn, passed away Sunday in his Auburn home. Most of his adult career was spent with Welder Services, Inc. as a salesman.

Mr. Stauffer

Surviving is his wife, Thea Stauffer; son Dirk (Cathy) Stauffer of Fort Wayne; daughters, Stephanie Stauffer of Monroeville, and Kori (Jerry) Miller of Fort Wayne; and his grandchildren, Sophie and Tebo Stauffer, Max, Jessie and Maddie, Aaliyah and Laityn Miller and Kristen, Lauren and Gabe Stauffer (of Florida).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert B. and Jessie B. Stauffer; and son, Beau Stauffer.

He deeply loved his family (and his dogs), believed in God, and doing the "right thing." He found enjoyment in the simpler things in life, like playing with grandkids, and making others smile.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the ASPCA or DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Rickie Williamson

BUTLER — Rickie Williamson Sr., 57, of Butler, born Sept. 10, 1954, in Butler and passed away October 5, 2011, at home.

Mr. Williamson

He is survived by his wife, Karen (Meints) Williamson, his children, Buffy (Tony) Salinas of Butler, IN, Pepper, Ricki and Rickie Jr. Williamson, all of Auburn, IN, his step-children, Jerimiah Griggs of New Haven, IN, April (Shane) Poley of Grabill, IN, Kevin (Melissa) Griggs of Butler, IN, Joseph Griggs of Auburn, IN and Brian Griggs of Butler, IN, his siblings, Henry H. Williamson Jr., Deb (Steve) Koch of Spencerville, IN, Konnie (Carl) Prentice of Butler, IN and Tina (Audi) Pepe of Ossian, IN and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main Street, Auburn.

Visitation is Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are asked to be sent to Parkview Hospice. To sign the online guest book or to leave a message of condolence visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

STAR

OCTOBER 7 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Funeral Monday at ACD Museum for John Martin Smith & Barbara 'Bobbie' Smith

AUBURN — John Martin Smith, 72, and Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, 71, of Auburn passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, in a tragic traffic accident in Grant County, Indiana. In loving memory of our father, mother, daughter, brother, sister-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, and grandmother.

Mr. Smith was born on August 17, 1939, to Walter Melvin Smith and Kathleen Ruth (Creager) Smith. They predeceased him. Mr. Smith lived in Butler during his youth and then moved to the Smith family farm on the south edge of Butler. He graduated from Butler High School in 1957. He then graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington with a B.S. in business in 1962. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

On September 3, 1960, he married Barbara "Bobbie" Alice Clark at the Ninth Street Christian Church in Logansport, Indiana. Mrs. Smith was born July 13, 1940, at Indianapolis, Indiana, to Charles Bosler Clark and Erma Dean (Shumaker) Clark of Mooresville, Indiana. Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her father, but is survived by her mother. Mrs. Smith graduated from Plainfield High School in 1958 and from Indiana University with a B.S. in education in 1962. She was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

Mr. Smith graduated from the Indiana University School of Law in 1965. He was a member of the Order of the Coif and was a Note Editor of the Indiana Law Journal. He began practicing law in Auburn, Indiana, on October 1, 1965, and recently marked forty-six years as an attorney. From 1998 until his death Mr. Smith practiced law with his son, Thompson Smith.

John Martin and Barbara Smith.

Historian from 1982 until his death.

Mr. Smith fell in love with history in the fifth grade. His passion was local history. During his life, Mr. Smith wrote numerous articles on historical subjects and was the author of seventeen books. In 1990, the 1,510 page "History of DeKalb County, 1837-1987" was published in observance of the Sesquicentennial of DeKalb County. He authored six books for Arcadia Publishing Company, including "Auburn, The Classic City" and "DeKalb County in Vintage Postcards."

John Martin was a "Sagamore of the Wabash," a recipient of the "Auburn Medal of Arts," the "Allen Graber Citizen of the Year Award," and the "Friend of Automotive Historians Award."

After graduating from Indiana University, Mrs. Smith taught language arts at the Martinsville Junior High School and then taught English at Auburn High School. She then worked part time as a secretary and bookkeeper in the law office for several years. In 1976, Mrs. Smith founded Smith-Cornell, Inc. to manufacture and sell plaques and markers for historic properties across the nation. She sold that business in 1991 and then went to work for the NATMUS museum in Auburn until her retirement.

Smith; a brother and sister-in-law, Rev. Charles W. Smith and Arlene Smith of Cedar Springs, Michigan; a sister, Julie Hutter of Fort Myers Beach, Florida; and Bobbie's mother, Erma Dean Clark of Auburn.

John and Bobbie celebrated their fiftieth anniversary last year and celebrated their fifty-first anniversary by completing the ACD Hoosier Tour in a 1919 Auburn. They were proud of their fifty-one years together, but were particularly proud of completing the tour.

John and Bobbie were known to their grandchildren as "Grandpa and Grandma at the Farm." Their children and grandchildren meant everything to them. Bobbie recently went on trips with Kathleen in support of her graduate creative project at Ball State University and both of them loved to visit Leah at Huntington University. All of the children and grandchildren would meet on Sunday evenings for dinner at "The Farm" with John and Bobbie. John took Conner, Caleb, Kendyl, and Katie to Holiday World every summer and always encouraged them in all of their endeavors. Grandchildren enjoyed long talks with grandma and projects with grandpa. Grandpa baked all of the Smith family birthday cakes. (Texas sheet cake). A grandchild's paradise was found at the home of John and Bobbie. In fact, they were delighted to help their grandchildren get into mischief that they hadn't thought of yet.

John and Bobbie will be missed dearly by their family, their friends, and their community.

Calling is on Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn from 1-[illegible] p.m. until 8 p.m. A second calling will occur on Monday from 10 a.m. until Noon at Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile

1. Columns

Mr. Smith served on numerous boards of directors of not-for-profit organizations. He is the founder of the DeKalb County Historical Society, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, and the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States, Inc. (NATMUS).

He served on the Board of Trustees and as President of the Indiana Historical Society, on the Board of Directors of the American Truck Historical Society, and on the Board of Directors of Indiana Landmarks. He also held several public offices, including the Board of Trustees and President of the Eckhart Public Library, Auburn City Attorney, and as DeKalb County

2.

Mrs. Smith was a member of Tri Kappa and previously involved with Auburn Improvement Association, Ladies Literary, and DeKalb Music Association, among others.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, John Clark Creager Smith and Joan Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, John Charles Thompson Smith and Jama Smith of Auburn, Indiana, and John Carl Patrick Smith and Mary Smith of Auburn, Indiana; grandchildren, Kathleen Smith, Leah Smith, Conner Smith, Caleb Smith, Kendyl Smith, and Katie

3.

Museum with a funeral service at noon. After the funeral service, there will be a procession through the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States with a graveside service following at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. John and Bobbie's automotive enthusiast friends are encouraged to drive their special interest cars to the service.

Preferred memorials are to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, NATMUS Museum, Willenar Genealogy Center and St. Martin's Health Clinic

To send online condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Martha Coers

AUBURN — Martha Merrie Coers, 62, of Auburn died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at DuPont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Coers was a wife, mother, and homemaker.

She was a graduate of the Indiana School for Deaf and Blind.

Mrs. Coers

She was born Oct. 12, 1948, in Carmel, Indiana, to George L. and Dena Pugh.

Surviving are four children, Gloria A. Coers of Norfolk, Va., Lorne E. L. Coers of Kewanna, Christopher R. Coers of Kewanna, and Josef V. Coers of Norfolk, Va.; four grandchildren, Rhapsody Coers, Nathaniel Winters Coers, Matthew Coers, and Michael Coers; two sisters, Phyllis O'Neal of Winamac, and Beverly Pugh of Georgia.; and two brothers, David Pugh of Winamac, and Daniel Pugh of Columbus, Ohio

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Michael Everett Coers; and a brother, Jerry Pugh.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the family receiving friends from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. The Rev. Scott Davis will be officiating. Burial will take place Mt. Zion Cemetery in Winamac at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Gloria Coers, 323 E. Chester St., Norfolk, Virginia, 23503.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

SMITHS: *Helped found museums, annual festival*

FROM PAGE A1

father of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and National Automotive and Truck Museum, both in Auburn.

"The man was always devoted to his community and especially to the history of the community and to promoting the community," said Jack Randinelli, a member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival board of directors since its founding nearly 40 years ago.

Randinelli recalled working with Smith to create two corporations to operate Auburn's classic car museum and festival.

"That was the beginning of a fantastic thing for this community … in how it's grown and given the community national recognition," Randinelli said.

Personally, Randinelli said about Mr. Smith, "He was a fantastic guy, and always had time to stop and chat with you,"

Raised in Butler, Mr. Smith came to Auburn in 1965 after graduating from the Indiana University School of Law.

He served as president of Auburn Automotive Heritage, which operates the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, from the museum's opening year in 1974 through 1986. He also was president of the board of trustees for Eckhart Public Library from 1973-1982 and served as Auburn city attorney from 1976-1983.

Mr. Smith wrote and edited a 1,500-page history of DeKalb County, published for the county's 150th anniversary in 1987. He also wrote "Auburn, A Classic City" and many other books with historical photographs and information on the county and northeast Indiana.

Mrs. Smith taught language arts at Martinsville Junior High School from 1962-64 and English at Auburn High School from 1965-66. She then worked in her husband's law office for several years and served as president of Smith-Cornell Inc., which made markers for historic sites and buildings.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This photograph of John Martin Smith and his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, was taken at one of their family's traditional Sunday night dinners. Family members say it was Bobbie Smith's favorite picture of the couple.

Auburn Mayor Norm Yoder called the couple's deaths tragic.

"If it wasn't for his unique set of skills he possessed and his passion, we wouldn't have many of the things we take for granted today," Yoder said about Mr. Smith. "It's safe to say he'll never be forgotten as a person and for his contribution to the community as a whole."

DeKalb County Council President Ben Smaltz said no one worked as hard as Mr. Smith to preserve DeKalb County's heritage.

"It was a sudden loss that came as a shock this morning," Smaltz said Thursday. "For anyone who was fortunate enough to know them, today is a very sad day. My thoughts and prayers go out to … the entire Smith family. They will be sorely missed in our community."

A spokeswoman for the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum also expressed sorrow at the loss of the Smiths.

"All of the trustees, staff, and volunteers of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum are saddened to hear of the tragic death of John Martin Smith and his wife, Bobbie," said Kendra Klink, operations director for the museum.

AUG. 17, 1939 OCT. 5, 2011

JOHN MARTIN SMITH

JULY 13, 1940 — OCT. 5, 2011

BARBARA 'BOBBIE' SMITH

Community mourns Smiths

I-69 crash kills county historian, museum founder and his wife

BY DAVE KURTZ and BOB CULP
dkurtz@kpcnews.net
bculp@kpcnews.net

AUBURN -- DeKalb County's historian and his wife, Barbara, are being remembered for their contributions to DeKalb County and the city of Auburn.

John Martin Smith, 72, and Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, 71, both of Auburn, died Wednesday evening when their car collided with a semi-tractor trailer on I-69 in Grant County.

An Auburn attorney, John Martin Smith devoted his life to researching and preserving the history of DeKalb County.

"I don't know if there was a better county historian in the state of Indiana," said Scott Bushnell of St. Joe, an author of books on regional and Indiana history.

"I think we've lost someone who could put the present in perspective by teaching us of the past," Bushnell added.

Smith's passions ranged from the horse thief detective societies of the late 19th century to the classic automobiles built in Auburn in the early 20th century.

Smith once said his love of history began when he was a fifth-grader in Butler, inspired by his teacher, James Cather, who hoped to write a history of DeKalb County. When Cather died that year of a heart attack, Smith promised himself, "Someday, I'm going to write that history myself."

"He maintained that childlike love of discovery and research," Bushnell said. "He certainly had a great love for DeKalb County."

When Smith became aware of important historic artifacts, he often would buy them and donate them to the Willennar Genealogy Center in Auburn, Bushnell said.

Because of Smith's lifelong work, Bushnell said, "I think there's a greater appreciation of who we've been and who we are."

Mr. Smith was regarded as the father of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and National Automotive and Truck Museum, both in Auburn.

"The man was always devoted to his community and especially to the history

Calling

WHEN: Sunday, 1-8 p.m.

WHERE: Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn

Second calling

WHEN: Monday, 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, Auburn

Funeral:

Monday noon at ACD Museum

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

STAR
OCTOBER 7 2011 Auburn, Indiana

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A car that carried John Martin Smith and his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, shows the effects of a violent collision with a semi on I-69 in Grant County that claimed their lives Wednesday night.

SMITHS: *Helped found auto museums, festival*

FROM PAGE A1

of the community and to promoting the community," said Jack Randinelli, a member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival board of directors since its founding nearly 40 years ago.

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A spokeswoman for the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum also expressed sorrow at the loss of the Smiths.

"All of the trustees, staff, and volunteers of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum are saddened to hear of the tragic death of John Martin Smith and his wife, Bobbie," said Kendra Klink, operations director for the museum. "John Martin Smith's vision was instrumental to the saving and restoring of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum to its current grandeur. He was a person who loved history and most of all history of DeKalb County. He will be greatly missed by the community, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Carter, Patrick and Thompson and their families during this time."

Smith was a 50-year member of the Indiana Historical Society and served on its board of trustees in several capacities, including two years as the board chairman.

"John Martin Smith was a great asset to preserving history in the state of Indiana, serving as a writer, scholar and mentor to many history organizations," said Jeff Harris, director of the Indiana Historical Society Local History Services. "I knew him in his capacity as DeKalb County Historian, a volunteer position cosponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau. He served as the county historian since the founding of the program 30 years ago, and was honored earlier this year at the annual County Historian Roundtable in Indianapolis for his term of service. The Local History Services Department would often call on his experience and expertise when there were history concerns in his part of the state. He will be missed."

John Martin Smith was a visionary

As I listen to the achievements of the late Stephen Jobs described on television, I'm thinking of the loss of John Martin and Bobbie Smith of Auburn in a car accident at about the same time. Steve Jobs and John Martin Smith both were men of vision and Bobbie was instrumental in making John's visions come true.

The visions of Steve Jobs and John Martin Smith were quite different. Steve Jobs aspired to create perfect computers. John Martin Smith wrote the history of DeKalb County, helped create fabulous museums, was involved with the restoration of the train station and was part of the creation of the Northeastern Center more than 30 years ago.

John Martin Smith was a visionary. His vision looked back. John Martin Smith realized that when we look back with clear eyes, our vision for the future becomes more meaningful.

George O. Witwer,

STAR
OCTOBER 7 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Funeral Monday at ACD Museum for John Martin Smith & Barbara 'Bobbie' Smith

AUBURN — John Martin Smith, 72, and Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, 71, of Auburn passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, in a tragic traffic accident in Grant County, Indiana. In loving memory of our father, mother, daughter, brother, sister-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, and grandmother.

Mr. Smith was born on August 17, 1939, to Walter Melvin Smith and Kathleen Ruth (Creager) Smith. They predeceased him. Mr. Smith lived in Butler during his youth and then moved to the Smith family farm on the south edge of Butler. He graduated from Butler High School in 1957. He then graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington with a B.S. in business in 1962. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

On September 3, 1960, he married Barbara "Bobbie" Alice Clark at the Ninth Street Christian Church in Logansport, Indiana. Mrs. Smith was born July 13, 1940, at Indianapolis, Indiana, to Charles Bosler Clark and Erma Dean (Shumaker) Clark of Mooresville, Indiana. Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her father, but is survived by her mother. Mrs. Smith graduated from Plainfield High School in 1958 and from Indiana University with a B.S. in education in 1962. She was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

Mr. Smith graduated from the Indiana University School of Law in 1965. He was a member of the Order of the Coif and was a Note Editor of the Indiana Law Journal. He began practicing law in Auburn, Indiana, on October 1, 1965, and recently marked forty-six years as an attorney. From 1998 until his death Mr. Smith practiced law with his son, Thompson Smith.

Mr. Smith served on numerous boards of directors of not-for-profit organizations. He is the founder of the DeKalb

John Martin and Barbara Smith.

Historian from 1982 until his death.

Mr. Smith fell in love with history in the fifth grade. His passion was local history. During his life, Mr. Smith wrote numerous articles on historical subjects and was the author of seventeen books. In 1990, the 1,510 page "History of DeKalb County, 1837-1987" was published in observance of the Sesquicentennial of DeKalb County. He authored six books for Arcadia Publishing Company, including "Auburn, The Classic City" and "DeKalb County in Vintage Postcards."

John Martin was a "Sagamore of the Wabash," a recipient of the "Auburn Medal of Arts," the "Allen Graber Citizen of the Year Award," and the "Friend of Automotive Historians Award."

After graduating from Indiana University, Mrs. Smith taught language arts at the Martinsville Junior High School and then taught English at Auburn High School. She then worked part time as a secretary and bookkeeper in the law office for several years. In 1976, Mrs. Smith founded Smith-Cornell, Inc. to manufacture and sell plaques and markers for historic properties across the nation. She sold that business in 1991 and then went to work for the NATMUS museum in Auburn until her retirement.

Smith; a brother and sister-in-law, Rev. Charles W. Smith and Arlene Smith of Cedar Springs, Michigan; a sister, Julie Hutter of Fort Myers Beach, Florida; and Bobbie's mother, Erma Dean Clark of Auburn.

John and Bobbie celebrated their fiftieth anniversary last year and celebrated their fifty-first anniversary by completing the ACD Hoosier Tour in a 1919 Auburn. They were proud of their fifty-one years together, but were particularly proud of completing the tour.

John and Bobbie were known to their grandchildren as "Grandpa and Grandma at the Farm." Their children and grandchildren meant everything to them. Bobbie recently went on trips with Kathleen in support of her graduate creative project at Ball State University and both of them loved to visit Leah at Huntington University. All of the children and grandchildren would meet on Sunday evenings for dinner at "The Farm" with John and Bobbie. John took Conner, Caleb, Kendyl, and Katie to Holiday World every summer and always encouraged them in all of their endeavors. Grandchildren enjoyed long talks with grandma and projects with grandpa. Grandpa baked all of the Smith family birthday cakes. (Texas sheet cake). A grandchild's paradise was found at the home of John and Bobbie. In fact, they were delighted to help their grandchildren get into mischief that they hadn't thought of yet.

John and Bobbie will be missed dearly by their family, their friends, and their community.

Calling is on Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. A second calling will occur on Monday from 10 a.m. until Noon at Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum with a funeral service at noon. After the

Top: This photograph of John Martin Smith and his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Smith was taken at one of their family's traditional Sunday night dinners. Family members say it was Bobbie Smith's favorite picture of the couple. Below right: John Martin Smith enjoyed donning bib overalls and digging into history. Here, he holds an antique wheel inside the National Automotive and Truck Museum in the 1990s. Below left: John Martin Smith chats with state Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, and KPC Media Group publisher emeritus George O. Witwer in August at a reception honoring the 100th anniversary of KPC Media Group. Smith spoke about newspaper history at the event.

1. Columns 2. 3.

County Historical Society, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, and the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States, Inc. (NATMUS).

He served on the Board of Trustees and as President of the Indiana Historical Society, on the Board of Directors of the American Truck Historical Society, and on the Board of Directors of Indiana Landmarks. He also held several public offices, including the Board of Trustees and President of the Eckhart Public Library, Auburn City Attorney, and as DeKalb County

Mrs. Smith was a member of Tri Kappa and previously involved with Auburn Improvement Association, Ladies Literary, and DeKalb Music Association, among others.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, John Clark Creager Smith and Joan Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, John Charles Thompson Smith and Jama Smith of Auburn, Indiana, and John Carl Patrick Smith and Mary Smith of Auburn, Indiana; grandchildren, Kathleen Smith, Leah Smith, Conner Smith, Caleb Smith, Kendyl Smith, and Katie

funeral service, there will be a procession through the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States with a graveside service following at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. John and Bobbie's automotive enthusiast friends are encouraged to drive their special interest cars to the service.

Preferred memorials are to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, NATMUS Museum, Willenar Genealogy Center and St. Martin's Health Clinic

To send online condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

I-69 crash kills Auburn historian, wife

The Journal Gazette

John Martin Smith, a well-known attorney with two books published about DeKalb County history, was killed along with his wife in a crash Wednesday evening on Interstate 69.

Smith, 72, who was the driver, and Barbara, 71, who went by Bobbie, were going south on I-69 at mile-marker 70 about 7 p.m., according to Indiana State Police, when their Lincoln sedan went out of control, spinning through the median and into the northbound lanes of the interstate.

A tractor-trailer rig driven by David Johnson, 42, of Chicago rear-ended the Smiths' car, police said. The Smiths were thrown from their car and died at the scene from injuries suffered in the crash, state police said. They were both wearing seat belts, but the impact of the crash caused their seats to break, police said.

Johnson was not injured in the crash. Neither drugs nor alcohol is suspected as having contributed to the crash, police said.

The crash was in Grant County near Van Buren.

An antique cars buff, John Smith had been president of the Auburn Cord Museum in Auburn and the National Automotive & Truck Museum of the United States in Auburn. He had also been on the board of trustees of the Indiana Historical Society and DeKalb County Historian.

A 1957 graduate of Butler High School, he received a Sagamore of the Wabash award from the governor of Indiana, and has published numerous books and articles on state and local history, including the book "Auburn: The Classic City, Indiana."

Rev. Donald Ruhl

WINONA LAKE — Rev. Donald L. Ruhl, 82, of Winona Lake died Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at Grace Village Retirement Center.

Funeral services were Thursday at Main Street United Methodist Church in Logansport.

Burial was in Newville Cemetery near Auburn.

Fisher Funeral Chapel in Logansport was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to U.M.C.O.R., United Methodist Committee on Relief, or to Camp Re-Yo-Ad at Epworth Forest, North Webster, IN.

Gregory Jones

HAMILTON — Gregory P. Jones, 56, died Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, at his home in rural Hamilton.

Services will be at 6 p.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. Saturday prior to the funeral service.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Zach and Aaron Jones.

Smiths gave county pride in its history

When John Martin Smith and his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Smith, died in a highway crash Wednesday, DeKalb County suffered an irreplaceable loss.

Over a career that spanned from the mid-1960s to this summer, the Smiths gave DeKalb County a sense of the unique character of its history.

John Martin Smith, with his wife as his helper, led the way in saving the remaining buildings of the Auburn Automobile Co. in Auburn. Under Smith's leadership, they became the glittering Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and the industrial-themed National Automotive and Truck Museum.

In the early 1970s, when some factions wanted to erect a modern building as a museum to house classic Auburn-built cars, Smith insisted on tackling the harder task of restoring the Auburn Automobile Co. headquarters. Today, we know it was well worth the extra effort.

Two decades later, Smith turned his attention to the crumbling but history-rich factory buildings behind the ACD Museum. He spearheaded the effort to turn them into a second high-quality museum for the city.

For DeKalb County's 150th anniversary in 1987, Smith fulfilled his longtime dream of writing a new history book about the county. His accumulated knowledge filled 1,500 pages.

Smith also wrote numerous smaller books about Auburn's history and illustrated them with highlights from his massive collection of old photographs and postcards.

He took special interest in Eckhart Public Library, across the street from his office, and its ties to the founding family of Auburn Automobile Co.

He revered the handsome DeKalb County Courthouse, where he practiced law, writing a pamphlet about its history and helping to celebrate its centennial this year.

We appreciate the way Smith valued newspapers for their role in recording "instant history" that survives down through the decades. He spoke kinds words about our newspaper company at our centennial party just a few weeks ago.

DeKalb County, northeastern Indiana and the entire state were blessed to have someone with Smith's devotion to history.

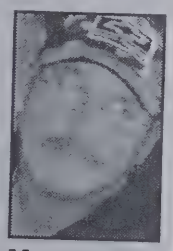
Other people may come close to matching Smith's passion for local heritage, but he possessed a rare ability to translate it into forms that thousands of other people could enjoy.

All of us are richer for having had John Martin Smith in our midst, and his community will miss him dearly.

Rickie Williamson Sr.

BUTLER — Rickie Williamson Sr., 57, of Butler, born Sept. 10, 1954, in Fort Wayne, died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Karen (Meints) Williamson; his children, Buffy (Tony) Salinas of Butler, and Pepper, Ricki and Rickie Jr. Williamson, all of Auburn;, his stepchildren, Jerimiah Griggs of New Haven, April (Shane) Poley of Grabill, Kevin (Melissa) Griggs of Butler, Joseph Griggs of Auburn,and Brian Griggs of Butler; his siblings, Henry H. Williamson Jr., Deb (Steve) Koch of Spencerville, Konnie (Carl) Prentice of Butler and Tina (Audi) Pepe of Ossian; and 12 grandchildren.



Mr. Wiliamson

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry H. and Dorothy M. Williamson.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service.

Memorials are to Parkview Hospice.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a message of condolence visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Martha Coers

AUBURN — Martha Merrie Coers, 62, of Auburn died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at DuPont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Coers was a wife, mother, and homemaker.

She was a graduate of the Indiana School for Deaf and Blind.

She was born Oct. 12, 1948, in Carmel, Indiana, to George L. and Dena Pugh.

Mrs. Coers

Surviving are four children, Gloria A. Coers of Norfolk, Va., Lorne E. L. Coers of Kewanna, Christopher R. Coers of Kewanna, and Josef V. Coers of Norfolk, Va.; four grandchildren, Rhapsody Coers, Nathaniel Winters Coers, Matthew Coers, and Michael Coers; two sisters, Phyllis O'Neal of Winamac, and Beverly Pugh of Georgia.; and two brothers, David Pugh of Winamac, and Daniel Pugh of Columbus, Ohio

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Michael Everett Coers; and a brother, Jerry Pugh.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the family receiving friends from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. The Rev. Scott Davis will be officiating. Burial will take place Mt. Zion Cemetery in Winamac at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Gloria Coers, 323 E. Chester St., Norfolk, Virginia, 23503.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

James Furnish

HAMILTON — James E. Furnish, 65, died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at his home on Ball Lake in Hamilton.

He was born April 4, 1946, in Fort Wayne, to Delbert and Garnet (Hudson) Furnish.

He served in the U.S. Navy, worked as a farmer for two years, and worked and retired from Eaton Corp in Auburn after 35 years of service.

Mr. Furnish

Mr. Furnish was very proud of his time spent in the service. He was a lifetime member of the Butler American Legion and National Riffle Association.

He deeply enjoyed family and his little dog "Dixie."

He liked to fish, garden, and cook. He loved his church and his Lord.

Surviving is his wife Ann (Prewett) Furnish of 46 years; three daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Brant Moore of Angola, Kimberly and Andy Wann of Ashley, and Amy and Chris Hodges of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Jessica (John) Weimer, Kara Hawver, Kurtis (Kara Lynn) Hawver, Morgan Moore, Olivia Moore, Richard Sonnenberg, Christopher Hodges, and Emagin Hodges; four great-grandchildren, Isabella, Makayla, Averil, and Matt; a brother, Jerry Furnish of Auburn; a sister, Judy Howard of Union City, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Bill Furnish; and three sisters, Betty Furnish, Bonnie Raeke, and Nancy Fogle.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Jeff Alexander will be officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn with military graveside services being conducted by the U.S. Navy and Butler American Legion.

There will also be visitation from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Hamilton Church of Christ Building Fund.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Trucker remembered for humor

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Maurice Stuckey's nickname was "Push It" and his wife, Ilva, was known as "Pull It."

The couple received the names for being a longtime truck-driving team and it also reflected on their strong work ethic and sense of humor.

Mr. Stuckey, 84, of Fremont, and formerly of Wauseon, Archbold, and Pettisville, Ohio, died Sept. 8, 2011 at Parkview North Hospice, Fort Wayne, from bladder cancer.

Family members pronounced his name "Morris," even though it was spelled Maurice. He was born to Dennis Stuckey and Herma Rupp, who raised him in the rural Pettisville.

On June 15, 1947, Mr. Stuckey married Ilva Schrock in Midland, Mich. They have six surviving children, Karen (Glen) Grieser of Hamilton, Ind.; Sandra (Bill) Fordley of Fort Worth, Texas; Debra (John) Leininger of Fayette, Ohio; Michael (Cheryl) Stuckey of Fremont; Randall (Sandra) Stuckey of Archbold; and Denise (Doug) Johnson of Fremont. Also surviving are eleven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, and three stepsisters and their families.

Ilva said when she met her husband through family members, there never was a doubt they wouldn't get married. "He said, 'The first time I saw your mother, she was the most beautiful woman in the world and still is,'" Denise Johnson, one of Mr. Stuckey's daughters said. "Family and trips were always first. He made sure we got what we needed. He didn't have a selfish bone in his body."

Johnson said family and trips were big with her father. But his sense of humor always stood out. "We went out West and he had (someone) believing in jackalope milk," Johnson said. "Friends always said, 'We're jealous of you. We want your parents. They never yelled at you in front of your friends.'"

Most of his adult life, Mr. Stuckey worked as an over-the-road truck driver for Electra hauling insulation and had the distinction of driving more than 2 million miles without an accident. For that feat, he was honored. Ilva usually joined her husband on the open road, since both worked for Electra, and she helped him get that honor. "In the 1970s, women weren't supposed to drive," Ilva said. "CBers harassed me. I slept during the day and drove at night by choice. He was called a Mennonite with a crew cut."

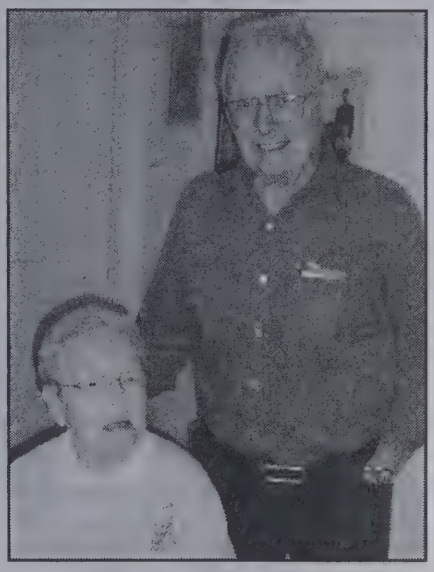


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Maurice, standing, and Ilva Stuckey, were partners for 64 years in marriage and on the open road as a truck-driving team. Maurice died Sept. 8 from cancer.

Ilva said she eventually started calling herself "Lady Electra," but she went on several long trips with her husband because the pay was decent and they had a large family.

Following his retirement he assisted his son, Mike, at M&C Trenching and became a part of his new community in Fremont. Family said he had a knack for making people feel welcome, especially a black family, who moved to a predominantly white area.

Ilva recalled her husband didn't like the limelight and never wanted to be first. He always made sure his family was fed first and always thought of others before himself. Even more so, Mr. Stuckey was known for teasing people, but not in a malicious way. "In the hospital, they asked if he had any pain," Ilva said. "He said, 'They're all standing there (as he pointed at his family members).'"

Mr. Stuckey liked taking home movies. He also liked breakfast time and biscuits and gravy. He also enjoyed cooking over an open fire — usually corn on the cob or pork chops.

"I remember dad as a caring dad, always there when we needed him," Deb Leininger, one of his daughters, said. "We didn't have a lot of money, but you would never have known it from dad. I remember Sundays were always family day. We played games or went to someone's house to play kickball."

Leininger said one Christmas, the holiday was placed on hold because her parents were out helping a family get medicine for their sick child. But the Stuckey family home was always open to anyone in need and it bustled with activity.

"Dad was always there when I needed him and no job was too big or too small for him," said one of his daughters, Sandi Fordley. "My children knew when grandpa spoke — that was the law — and he never raised a hand to them."

Church was a major part of his life. At a young age, Mr. Stuckey was a member of the West Clinton Mennonite Church. Eventually, he taught Sunday school for many years. His current membership was with the Fremont Community Church, where he served as an elder. "My dad lived for his churches," Leininger said. "No matter what town he lived in, he found a church to suit his needs and put his whole heart in serving the Lord. His life reflected on that through the way he lived and the way he loved mom and his kids."

Memorials are requested to the Fremont Community Church.

William Rucker

AUBURN — William C. Rucker, 82, of Auburn, died Friday Oct. 7, 2011 at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler, Ind.

Mr. Rucker retired in 1991 after 25 years at General Electric.

He was a member of the GE Quarter Century Club, Hicksville Eagles Aerie 2556.

Mr. Rucker

He was born on April 16, 1929 in Champaign County, Ohio, the son of the late William E. and Josephine (Hart) Rucker. On March 25, 1950, he was united in marriage with Lola Davis and she survives.

Also surviving, in addition to his wife, are: four daughters; Cynthia "Diann" (Walt Snyder) Dull of Auburn, Susan (Dennis) Hoover of Spencerville, Ind., Sandra (Ron) Czaja, Juli (Fred) DeLaCruz, all of Butler; eight grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; two step grandchildren; a sister, Mary Louise (Carl) Verro of Auburn; and a brother, Robert (Sharon) Rucker of Columbia City.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville, Ohio, with Pastor Kevin Marsh of the Butler United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Newville Cemetery.

Visitation will be Monday, Oct. 10, 2011, from 2:00-5:00 and 6:00-8:00 p.m. with an Eagles service at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

Memorials may be made to Shop with a Cop.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Jeramy Cassady

AUBURN — Jeramy David Cassady, 38, of Los Angeles, Calif., formerly of Auburn, died Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, in Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., due to complications associated with cancer.

He was a writer and worked at Cafe La Boheme in West Hollywood, Calif. He enjoyed modeling, travel, hiking, running, health and fitness and his family.

Mr. Cassady

On Oct. 30, 1972, in Auburn, he was born to Greg and Pam (Chalfant) Cassady. They survive.

Also surviving are: a brother, Tyson L. (Janelle) Cassady of Pleasant Lake, Ind.; a sister, Megan Williford of Auburn; maternal grandparents, Jeannie (Cassady) Gehring of Auburn, and Dr. John M. Chalfant of Auburn; a niece, Jhurmi Cassady; and three nephews, Airoh Cassady, Jhude Cassady and Xzavier Williford.

Preceding him in death were: a parent, Jack D. Wren; a grandparent, Ruth (Wren) Colstock; a grandparent, Clair R. Wren; a grandparent, Beverly Frankville; and a grandparent, William H. Cassady.

A Celebration of Life service will be at a later date.

Memorials are to the family of Greg and Pam Cassady, 3610 C.R. 39, Auburn IN 46706.

STAR
OCTOBER 10 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Glenn Bogner

AUBURN — Glenn R. Bogner, 69, of Auburn, died Friday, Oct. 7, 2011, at his residence.

He was born June 22, 1942, to the late Melvin and Editha Bogner. He was a 1960 graduate of Albion Jefferson High School and was a U.S. Navy petty officer, 3rd class.

He is survived by a brother, Earlin Bogner of West Lafayette and a sister, Virginia Bogner, of Fort Wayne; two nephews; one niece; and eight great-nieces and -nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond and Harry Bogner; and a sister, Mary Muesing.

Memorial services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Sparta Cemetery, Kimmell.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 11 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Last Ride Through Museum

CHAD KLINE

As mourners watch, two antique hearses snake through the National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States in Auburn Monday afternoon. They carry the bodies of John Martin Smith and his wife, Bobbie, who led the restoration of the historic building. A 1939 LaSalle hearse owned by a Fort Wayne collector leads, followed by a 1960 Cadillac hearse owned by Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn.

STAR
OCTOBER 2011 Auburn, Indiana
11

Smiths changed city forever

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — The final journey for John Martin Smith and his wife, Bobbie, began in one historic building they helped save and passed through another.

A funeral for the Auburn couple began in the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, rescued in the early 1970s under the Smiths' leadership.

After 90 minutes of remembering the Smiths' lives, mourners walked next door to the National Automotive and Truck Museum, preserved by the couple's efforts over the past 20-plus years.

A pair of antique hearses carried the Smiths through the narrow aisles of the second museum as mourners watched under the building's giant skylights. Family members walked behind the hearses, and others filed in behind.

A parade of 17 vintage automobiles, most of them Auburns and Cords, then led the hearses to Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn. Some of the Smiths' children and grandchildren rode in the family's

CHAD KLINE

Mike and Joan Huffman of Hudsonville, Mich., drive their 1931 Cord L-29, leading a procession of classic cars that escorted the late John Martin Smith and Bobbie Smith to Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn for burial Tuesday.

SMITHS: *Kruse calls them 'restorers of people'*

FROM PAGE A1

1919 and 1926 Auburn cars.

John Martin Smith, 72, and Bobbie Smith, 71, died Wednesday in a car-semi collision on I-69 north of Marion. Mr. Smith had planned Tuesday's funeral service 15 years earlier.

The Rev. Mitchell Kruse spoke at their funeral in the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum's main ballroom. He told hundreds of mourners how the Smiths — he from Butler and she from Plainfield — met at a sorority-fraternity dance at Indiana University in Bloomington.

In 1965 they moved to Auburn, "a community that he and Bobbie would change forever," Kruse said.

"This community knew John and Bobbie as restorers" of historic buildings, Kruse said. "I knew them as restorers of people."

Mr. Smith constantly gave money to people in need and helped many Amish schools with legal issues, Kruse said.

"John would go out and help my dad with his legal problems for free," Kruse added.

Mrs. Smith "had the library of a seminarian" on religious topics, Kruse said. He spoke about his faith often with staff members, who described Smith as "an excellent example of how we all should live."

"We weren't just drawn to John Martin and Bobbie, we drawn to Christ in John Martin and Bobbie," Kruse said.

Kruse said it is clear how the couple "poured their lives" into their three children and six grandchildren.

One granddaughter, Kendyl, delivered a personal prayer and another, Katie, sang a song in honor of the couple.

Other grandchildren joined their parents in demonstrating an inherited gift for words.

Creager Smith said his parents lived with a sense of what is truly important — family, friends and service to individuals in need.

"My Dad was my biggest hero," said Thompson Smith, who practices law with his father.

Other family members and friends joined in the chorus of praise and memories, many of them humorous and often involving Mr. Smith's love of old automobiles.

Speakers recalled how Mr. Smith instigated a climbing of Butler's water tower when he was a high school senior and accidentally ran over a pig with his father's farm truck, concealing the mishap for years.

Only six weeks ago, the Smiths completed the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Hoosier Tour for the first time in four attempts, driving to Winchester and back in their 1919 Auburn automobile.

"(John's) grin was from ear to ear" afterward, said Belva Meyer, who organizes the annual trip for classic cars.

"JMS and Bobbie had a great deal more to do in their lives," said Larry Dent, a former executive director of the National Automotive and Truck Museum.

"Auburn wouldn't be the same without John Martin and Bobbie," said Dean V. Kruse. "I know by seeing some of his plans that he wasn't finished." He expressed hope that others would carry on the Smiths' visions for Auburn.

The service ended with a song chosen in advance by Mr. Smith, "My Way" sung by Elvis Presley.

STAR
OCTOBER 12 2011 Auburn, Indiana

James Johnston Sr.

AUBURN — James H. Johnston Sr., 72, of Auburn died Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Johnston

Mr. Johnston retired from International Harvester in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of the St. Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn.

He was born Sept. 25, 1939, in Butler to Harry and Lerah (Cole) Johnston.

He married Bonnie L. (Prewett) Cobbs on June 23, 1975, in Waterloo, and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, James H. Johnston Jr. of Wayland, Mich., and Rick A. and Michelle L. Johnston of Garrett; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jennifer L. and Paul A. Warfield of Garrett, and Crystal L. and Justin J. Maurer of Fort Wayne; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Art Kura of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jerry L. Johnston; and two half sisters, Othilda Gibson and Laura Ernest.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 1 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Marks Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn, IN 46706.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Roberta Sprague

BUTLER — Roberta Lynn (Hart) Sprague, 48, of Butler died Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Sprague

Mrs. Sprague retired from Cooper Standard in Auburn.

Roberta was a former member of the Women of the Moose Chapter 261 of Auburn and enjoyed donating time to Relay for Life.

She was the world's greatest girl's softball fan. She loved quilting, bingo, and camping. Roberta was a loving mother and grandmother. She was caretaker to her "punkin heads."

She was born Jan. 27, 1963, in Fort Wayne, to Robert LeRoy and Hazel M. (Schaaf) Hart. Her father preceded her in death and her mother survives in Auburn.

She married Larry G. Sprague on Oct. 31, 1998, in Corunna. He survives.

Also surviving are three children, Joshua L. Hart of Kendallville, Kelsey C. Hart of St. Joe, and Drew L. Timmerman of Butler; a grandson, Gauge Hart; a grandson who will arrive in about a week, Hayden Robert Drerup; six sisters and brothers-in-law, Sheila and Larry Hart of Auburn, Peggy and Ron Snyder of Ohio, Sonja and Ty Knecht of North Manchester, Susan and Jr. Shaffer of Ashley, Shelley French of Fort Wayne, and Becky and Randy Deetz of Waterloo; her grandmother, Betty I. Woods of Garrett; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jeanette and Gary Hockensmith of Auburn; sisters-in-law and their spouses, Kim and Brian Pierson of Auburn, and Steph and Dean McNamara of Auburn; 25 nieces and nephews; and 33 great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father; and paternal grandparents, Raymond and Hazel Hart.

Visitation will be from noon to 7 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. There will be a private family graveside service held Saturday at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Cleveland Hope Lodge, 11432 Mayfield Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

James Swartz

AUBURN — James Marvin Swartz, age 61, of Auburn, died on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at his daughter's residence Avilla.

Mr. Swartz

Mr. Swartz was born in Kendallville on December 28, 1949, to the late Gerald Pete and Lois (Outlaw) Swartz.

He graduated from East Noble High School in 1970.

Jim worked for 38 years at Newnam Foundry in Kendallville until it closed March 2009.

Jim was committed to his family and he loved spending time with his grandkids. He believed in his family and loved going to all of their events. He also attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

In earlier days and throughout his high school years, Jim was an accomplished Golden Glove boxer.

He was an athletic young man and enjoyed playing all kinds of sports. He especially loved to bowl, play baseball and football. The Chicago Bears and the New York Yankees were his favorite professional teams.

Later in life, Jim coached flag football at the YMCA and he coached Little League Youth Baseball in Kendallville.

He loved fishing and old movies. His father was a WWII veteran and Purple Heart recipient and Jim enjoyed WWII history and movies. He enjoyed building model tanks and planes from the war era.

Survivors include three sons, Seth Swartz and his girlfriend, Jessica Garrett, both of Waterloo, Jake and Lindsey Swartz of Avilla and Drew Swartz of West Lafayette; a daughter, Tracey Swartz of Avilla; five grandchildren, Joseph Kole Swartz, Jebadiah James Swartz, Leah Cecilia Marie Umphrey, Traneisha Nicole Gentry and Traveon Carmello Gentry and two brothers, Krag and Donna Swartz of St. Paul, Minnesota and David and Kathy Swartz of Fort Wayne.

Visitation and memorial services will be held Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Gweyn Walters

AUBURN — Gweyn Walters, 92, of Auburn died Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, at her son's home.

Mrs. Walters

Born October 24, 1918, in Heber Springs, Ark., she had worked at Wayne Candies in Fort Wayne for 26 years.

Surviving are a son, Carlos Brooks of Auburn; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Jon Stoltzfus will officiate. Burial will be in Linden-wood, Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Visitation for family and friends will begin at 10 a.m., with the service at 11 a.m.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Jim by Saturday, October 15, 2011, at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Beanie Fritz

KENDALLVILLE — Beanie Fritz, age 88, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Fritz

Betty Louise (Cook) Fritz was born in Wolcottville on October 7, 1923, to the late Harlo C. and Margaret P. (Rogers) Cook.

She graduated from Wolcottville High School in 1940 and married Richard Charles Fritz on August 23, 1941, in the United Methodist Church in Wolcottville. Dick preceded her death on December 12, 2007, after 66 years of faithful marriage.

Beanie was a homemaker and member of the First Christian Church in Kendall ville.

She loved reading and tending to her flower gardens, watching Notre Dame football and IU basketball.

She was a charter member of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, past president of the Elks Ladies Auxiliary and life member of the American Legion Post #86, Ladies Auxiliary in Kendallville.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and David Weimer of Auburn and Pam and Gary Grogg of Auburn.

She was "Nanna" to seven grandchildren and their spouses: Amy and Morgan Metcalf of Inverness, Florida; Cory and Andrea Grogg of Indianapolis; Sommer and Adam Rudolph of Fort Wayne; Josh Grogg of Auburn; Heather and Robert Gaff of Hamilton; Chad and Tiffany Weimer of Auburn; and Derrick and Kim Weimer of Auburn; 18 great-grandchildren; and a brother, James Cook of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harlo C. Cook (January 1988); her mother, Margaret P. Cook (December 1978); and her sister, Emogene Shuler.

Visitation will be today, Thursday, October 13, 2011, from 4-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 14, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home. Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Tom Clothier and Pastor Bob Farmer.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 14 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Ruben Acevedo

BUTLER — Ruben Acevedo, 86, died Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Graveside service will be at noon at Butler Memorial Gardens.

Memorials are to the family.

DeEtta Close

AUBURN — DeEtta M. Close, 89, of Auburn died Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Close

Mrs. Close was a press operator at Cooper Standard in Auburn, retiring in 1983.

She attended Meese Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Auburn.

She was born April 28, 1922, in DeKalb County to Ross and Agnes (Leis) Culbertson. She married Francis A. Close in DeKalb County on March 21, 1943, and he died on Jan. 2, 2000.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Marjorie and Michael Bauman of Auburn, Judy and Jim Pepple of Auburn, and Linda and Bud Handshoe of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, John and Martha Close of Auburn, and Jack Sr. and Debra Close of Auburn; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Eugene Culbertson of Fort Wayne, and Donald Culbertson of St. Joe.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Art Culbertson, Paul Culbertson, and Richard Culbertson; and a sister, Wilma Beuchel.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. prior to the service Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Road, Bethesda, Md, 20814.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 15 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Caring about her community

Sandy Mafera led United Way for more than 20 years

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Sandra Mafera cared about her community and worked throughout her life to make Auburn a better place.

Mrs. Mafera, 71, died May 31 at Indiana University Goshen Hospital in Goshen.

She was born Nov. 24, 1939, to Frank and Marian Raushcenbach in LaPorte. It was in her hometown where a chance encounter lead her to meet her husband, Stephen, and later move to Auburn.

Stephen Mafera was serving in the Army at Fort Campbell in Kentucky with a fellow soldier from LaPorte. He would visit his friend there and eventually was introduced to his future wife, he said.

The couple married on July 4, 1962, in Westwood, Mass. They relocated to LaPorte, where she raised their two children, Stephen Anthony (Tony) and Stephanie. The family soon moved to Auburn.

Mrs. Mafera was as devoted a mother to her children as she was to her community, serving as the PTA president and substitute teacher at their school.

"She had a horrendous amount of patience, she really did," her husband said. "She raised two kids while I went to school full-time and worked. Wow!"

No sooner had the Maferas arrived in Auburn before Mrs. Mafera jumped in to help out. When new residents moved to Auburn, Mafera was the first person they met in her position as a volunteer for Welcome Wagon. She'd stop over, drop off a few items and introduce herself to the newcomers.

"There were a few times I remember sitting in the car, and she's inside talking," her son, Tony Mafera, said. "Her job was to make new people feel comfortable coming to town."

His mother certainly knew how to talk to people, Tony Mafera said, which he believes is why she had a knack for raising money for a bevy of service organizations. From transforming an old, dusty church into a thriving senior social center, to serving as director of the United Way of DeKalb County for more than 20 years, his mother was able to make a real difference in her community.

"One of the things about her is she had a very good ability to deal with people," Tony Mafera said. "She knew how to go and connect with people and engage them, no matter where they were at and in whatever situation. From the farm to the boardroom, she had that ability. The good thing is that it worked for not only her, but for the community."

Tony Mafera said his mother only took jobs she believed in and had a passion for, including a stint as a radio reporter for a local station, a job at the chamber of commerce and organizing a nonprofit group of enterprising Auburn women.

"She involved herself in her job, and she believed in her cause," Tony Mafera said. "It was a part of her. Most people put a check in the box and get the job done — she put herself into her work."

Mafera and her husband moved away from Auburn, but she continued her community-building wherever she went.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sandy Mafera was notable in the Auburn community for leading several nonprofit organizations, including the United Way of DeKalb County, and assisting in the founding of the Heimach Senior Center.

She served as the director of the United Way of Kosciusko County, developed North Webster Community Center, and was a Friend of the Library before retiring to a lake cottage with her husband.

"I think a lot of people will remember her, and they will remember the things that she did," Stephen Mafera said. "I think her legacy will be that she was one of the people in the background that helped Auburn to grow, as it has with many others."

Tammy Cottrell

AUBURN — Tammy L. Cottrell, 44, of Auburn, passed away Saturday Oct. 15, 2011, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne surrounded by her family.

She was a member of Auburn Church of Christ and enjoyed working on puzzles, camping, bowling, reading and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Cottrell

She had worked at the Super 8 Motel in Auburn.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Cottrell of Auburn; two sons and a daughter-in-law, John and Heather Cottrell and Rich Allen (Jessica Hicov) Cottrell all of Auburn; grandchildren, Isaac and Michaela Cottrell of Auburn; mother and stepfather, Sharon and Will Lewis of Garrett; father and stepmother, John and Ruth Tipton of Fort Wayne; and a sister and brother-in-law, Sheila and Rick Leach of Auburn.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Rev. Joe Heins officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the funeral service.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

To sign the online guest book or to leave the family a message of remembrance, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Kanoshia Delagrange

SPENCERVILLE — Kanoshia Ann Delagrange, 81, died Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at her home in rural Spencerville.

She was born in Leo on March 28, 1930, to Menno and Lydia (Delagrange) Witmer. They preceded her in death.

She married Noah Leroy Delagrange on May 24, 1952, in Allen County.

She enjoyed being a homemaker and fellowshipping with people at her home. She loved animals of all kinds.

Surviving are her husband, Noah Delagrange of Spencerville; three sons Dale (Fern) Delagrange of Spencerville, Douglas (Vi) Delagrange of Spencerville, and Delbert (Sarah) Delagrange of Spencerville; two daughters, Charlotte (Mike) Chamness of Fort Wayne and Cristal (Craig) Bontrager of Grabill; 17 Grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a brother, Menno (Rosa) Witmer of Leo; and two sisters, Margaret Witmer of Leo and Mary Miller of Leo.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry and Eli Witmer.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Central Church, 5801 Schwartz Road. A private family burial will be held.

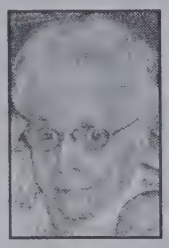
Calling will be Monday from 2-8 pm at Central Church.

Memorials are to Parkview Hospice and Central Missions Fund at Central Church.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

Betty Bash

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Betty L. Bash, 88, of Bluffton, Ohio, died Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at 5 p.m. at the Mennonite Memorial Home, Bluffton.


Mrs. Bash

She was born Feb. 4, 1923, in West Mansfield, Ohio, to William "Jack" and Marjorie (Salter) Frost.

On July 21, 1940, she married Dallas J. Bash and he died Nov. 28, 2007.

She had worked at Steinman Bros. Lumber Company, Triplett Corporation, Diamond Savings and Loan, all in Bluffton, and Aldens of Lima.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Bluffton, where she was a previous board member, treasurer, Sunday School teacher, and youth group adviser. She was also a member of the Bluffton Women's Professionals. She volunteered with the Allen County Board of Elections, enjoyed bowling and crocheting, and her grandchildren were the light of her life.

Survivors include a daughter Sue (Gene) Mathewson of Bluffton; two sons, David (Karen) Bash of Auburn and Tony (Janet) Bash of Houston, Texas; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Libby Vincent of Kenton, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Daniel Webster and Jack Frost, and three sisters Marjorie Wheeler, Dorothy Burke and Elner Frost.

Services will be Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Bluffton, with Pastor Bryant Miller and Chaplain William Herr officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Bluffton.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4-7 p.m. at Chiles-Laman Funeral and Cremation Services, Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to the Mennonite Memorial Home or First United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be left at www.chiles-lamanfh.com.

Mable Bevington

ST. JOE — Mable F. Bevington, 93, died Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

She was born in Adams County on Oct. 3, 1918, to Jesse and Opal Marie (Ray) Bevington. They preceded her in death.

She graduated from South Side High School and Manchester College with a teaching degree. She started teaching elementary education and English in the Akron School District in Akron, Ind. Later she started the art department at Akron and became an art teacher. She also taught at Waterloo High School, which became DeKalb High School, from where she retired.

She was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe, DeKalb County Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, Retired Teacher's Association, DeKalb Fine Arts Commission and the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She also helped for several years with the St. Joe Lions Club Fair Booth.

Surviving are a sister-in-law, Betty Bevington of St. Joe; a nephew, Stephen (Jackie) Bevington of St. Joe; nieces, Cindy (Mike) Stauffer of Fort Wayne and Laura (Jim) Beckman of Petersburg, Ky.; four great-nephews and great-nieces; one great-great-nephew; and her lifelong best friend, Imogene Mavis of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Forrest "Red" Bevington, on July 3, 1994, and two great-nephews.

Services will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. with calling one hour prior at the St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe. Pastor Merle Holden will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials to St. Mark Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 345, St. Joe, IN 46785.

Brad Parker

AUBURN — Brad Earl Parker, 61, died Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at his home in Auburn.

He was born July 16, 1950, in Lafayette. He was the son of the late Robert M. Parker and Mary Alice (Smith) Barbee.

Mr. Parker

Brad was a 1969 graduate of Southwestern High School in Lafayette where he played varsity football.

He was an Eagle Scout and later served in the U.S. Army reserves.

He was a railroad engineer, running trains for 30 years before retiring. He started working in 1970 for Monon Railroad in Lafayette and then moved to Auburn in 1988 where he worked for CSX Railroad in Garrett.

Brad enjoyed golfing, fishing with his children and grandchildren, and spending time with his family. He always enjoyed lending a hand to others in need.

Surviving are his wife of 39 years, Susan E. (Wright) Parker of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Andrea Parker of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Brooke and Stephen Pelletier of Bloomington; adored by two granddaughters, Mahayla "Haylie" Parker, and Taylor Pelletier, and a grandson, Parker Pelletier; his mother, Mary Alice Barbee of Crawfordsville; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Charlotte Parker of Lafayette, Bruce and Cheryl Parker of Lafayette, and Brian and Michele Parker of Crawfordsville; sisters and a brother-in-law, Pam Grame of Lafayette, and Penny and Clint Carter of Kansas; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert M. Parker; and a brother-in-law, the Rev. Sheldon Grame.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. The Rev. Ted Jansen will be officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Martin's Healthcare, 1359 South Randolph St., Garrett, IN 46738-1970.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Mary Saurbeck

AUBURN — Mary E. Saurbeck, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Saurbeck

Mrs. Saurbeck worked for the Ohio Art Co. in Bryan, Ohio, and was also a homemaker.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born May 25, 1925, in Stryker, Ohio, to Michael and Frances (Hornacek) Psurny. She married Donald C. Saurbeck on Nov. 19, 1949, in Bryan, Ohio.

Surviving are her husband of 63 years Donald Saurbeck of Auburn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and five brothers, Gotlieb Psurny, Joseph Psurny, Edward Psurny, Frank Psurny and Victor Psurny.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with visitation from 10:30-11:30 a.m. prior to Mass at the church. Father Derrick Sneyd will be officiating. Burial will take place at 3 p.m. in Fountain Grove Cemetery in Bryan, Ohio.

Visitation will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the rosary being recited at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or the DeKalb County Heart Association.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Peter Bottomley

KENDALLVILLE — Peter Russell Bottomley, age 72, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Bottomley

Mr. Bottomley was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on April 10, 1939, to the late W.R. Bottomley and Lucy C. (Copeland) Bottomley.

He graduated from Pawtucket West High School in Rhode Island in 1957 and Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio, in 1966.

Pete completed his Master's of Music Education in 1969 from St. Francis University, Fort Wayne.

He married Janet E. Deitrick on June 17, 1961, in New Bavaria, Ohio.

Pete began his music teaching career at Hicksville High School in Hicksville, Ohio, in 1964.

He taught at Hicksville for four years and then began music instruction at East Noble High School in 1967.

Mr. Bottomley was the Director of Bands at East Noble until he retired in 1999.

He also was the Orchestra Director for East Noble Theatre and conducted many memorable productions over the span of more than three decades.

He remained very active in the world of music education after his retirement and continued teaching part-time at Holy Cross Lutheran Middle School in Fort Wayne for about two years.

Pete was also an "instrument fitter" for beginners in band. He worked at the Quinlan and Fabish Music Company in Fort Wayne for several years making sure that instruments fit youngsters properly.

He was a two-time Past President of the Indiana Bandmasters Association from 1985-87.

He served on the State of Indiana School Music Association board of directors from 1994-97.

He was a member of Phi Beta Mu Music Fraternity, Gamma Chapter.

He was a past member and 1980-81 past president of the Kendallville Rotary Club.

Pete was also a member of the Summit City Men's Barbershop Chorus for several years.

In his limited spare time, Pete enjoyed painting with water colors and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was also in the process of writing a book and was a faithful member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Parrish in Kendallville where, in the past, he played the organ for Mass.

Survivors include his wife, Janet Bottomley of Kendallville; two sons, Rusty and Dana Bottomley of Center Point, Indiana, and Doug Bottomley of Kendallville; a daughter, Dr. Kim and Mark Harris of Brownsburg, Indiana; two grandchildren, Kansas Bottomley of Columbus, Indiana and her sisters, Chelsea and Ashley Certain of Kendallville, and Addison Bottomley of Auburn; two sisters, Linda Parsons of Rhode Island and Sarah Brooks of New Hampshire; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his only brother, William Bottomley.

Visitation for family and friends will be Friday, October 21, 2011, from 2-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. There will be a vigil service at 8 p.m. conducted by Father James Stoyle.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, October 22, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at the corner of Oak and Diamond streets in Kendallville. Officiating the funeral Mass will be Father Stoyle.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Peter R. Bottomley Scholarship in care of the Noble County Community Foundation in Ligonier and the Peter R. Bottomley Band Program for Beginners.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Pete by Friday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Jessie Haifley

ANGOLA — Jessie M Haifley, 85, of West Otter Lake, Angola, died Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mrs. Haifley

She was born Jan. 25, 1926, in Newville Township in DeKalb County to Floyd and Gay (Coburn) Roberts.

She worked at Rieke Corp. in Auburn for 19 years and was a nurses' aide at Cameron Hospital in Angola and McCray Hospital in Kendallville. She was a certified Home Health Aide with Compre Care Home Health for 15 years retiring in 1993.

She married Gerald Haifley on July 3, 1953, and he survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Ann and John Merritt of Waterloo; two sons, Dan Haifley of Angola and Jerry Haifley of Angola; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Paula Roberts of St. Joe; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Michael Harris and James Harris; a daughter, Sharon Fitzcharles; and three grandchildren.

Services will be 3 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Carl Dilley officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Visitation is from noon until the service at 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb County Humane Society.

Lucile Hardy

FORT WAYNE — Lucile E Hardy, passed away Monday, October 17, 2011, at her home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hardy

She was born November 23, 1919, in Auburn and was taught Christian values and the virtue of helping others by her parents Edgar and Bessie (Marks) Barley who preceded her in death.

Lucile graduated from Auburn High School and International Business College of Fort Wayne before marrying Richard Eldon Hardy on August 31, 1940, who preceded her in death on June 10, 2004, after 63 years of marriage.

Lucile became well known for her charity work and began volunteering at the county first aid station and food pantry. After WWII she was named volunteer chairperson of the DeKalb County Blood Mobile and gave nearly 50 years of volunteer service to the American Red Cross before serving 6 years as Executive Director of DeKalb County American Red Cross before retiring in 1999. The DeKalb County Christmas Bureau was her favorite Red Cross sponsored project and she was named DeKalb County Volunteer of the year in 1998, as well as recipient of the Jefferson Award for public service in 1999.

Lucile was an organizer for the first DeKalb County Focus on Health and founding member of the Auburn Home Extension Club. She belonged to the Indiana Federation of Clubs, serving as Secretary of the Northeast Indiana Zone and as DeKalb County President.

Lucile was a life long member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church. As a member, she served the church as a Brownie, Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader. She has served on the church's Mission Commission, has been a Sunday school teacher, church board member, the Wesleyan Circle chairperson and Youth Fellowship Councilor. She has received the church's Special Recognition from United Methodist Women award.

She was a member and past Worthy Matron of the Auburn Eastern Star and was a former member of the Auburn Women's Club.

Lucile is survived by a daughter Carol Ann Payton; son, Richard Hardy of Auburn; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Kathleen Hardy of Auburn; a sister, Helen Houlton of Auburn; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 22, 2011, at Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn and also 1 hour prior to the service at the church Saturday.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Auburn First United Methodist Church.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Richard Brown

AUBURN — Richard H. "Dick" Brown, 77, of Auburn passed away on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at home.

Mr. Brown

He was born in Kearny, New Jersey, on February 2, 1934, to the late William Terry and Clara Mae (Rupp) Brown.

After graduating in 1952 from North Arlington, New Jersey High School, Mr. Brown entered the U.S. Navy and served four years in the submarines as fire control operator with deployment in the Mediterranean Sea.

He attended Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois, joined Sigma Phi Epsilon, majored in business and it is there he met his wife, Karen Johnsen. They married May 30, 1959, in Niles, Illinois.

They moved to New Jersey where he was employed by Ballentine Brewery in Newark. Automation eliminated his job and presented the opportunity to take a position with General Motors in Saginaw, Michigan, at Central Foundry. Most of his career he worked in accounting. When data processing came in and General Motors brought EDS, he moved to Saginaw Steering Gear until 1987. Downsizing began so Richard accepted a transfer to EDS's new facility in Herdon, Virginia. Richard retired from GM/EDS in 1994 after 30 years of service.

While in Saginaw, he was active in the General Motors golf league, Washington Society, and Gandy Dancers. Richard coached flag football and Little League baseball. He remained a New York Giant and Yankee fan his whole life.

After two years of retirement, his wife who was working for the CIA, took an assignment overseas, and they spent three years in New Delhi, India, and four years in Athens, Greece. This afforded him the opportunity to travel to many different countries in Europe, Australia and Africa. His wife retired in 2003, and they settled in Auburn where their three sons were living at that time.

Surviving are his wife, Karen Brown of Auburn; three sons, Eric (Sherry) Brown of Sabattus, Maine, Christopher Brown of Dothan, Alabama, and Scott (Beth Michael) Brown of Auburn; two grandsons, Joshua Brown of Fort Wayne, and Samuel Brown of Auburn; his step grandchildren, Darcy Flanagan, Carrie Flanagan and Matissee Flanagan all of Louisville, Kentucky; many nieces and nephews; and he was Papa to grandnieces.

Madison and Natalie Schultis of Auburn.

Mr. Brown was preceded in death by brothers William T. and George W. Brown.

There will be no services or calling.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Louise Shanabarger

AVILLA — Louise J. (Muzzillo) Shanabarger, 91, an Auburn resident all her life, died Thursday, October 20, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Shanabarger

She was born November 29, 1919, in Auburn to Louis and Angeline (Catrina) Muzzillo. They have both passed away.

Louise worked as in inspector at Essex Corporation for 26 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. She belonged to the Rosary Society of the church. She was a former Girl Scout Leader and member of the Women of the Moose.

Louise married Lee Shanabarger on January 5, 1946, in Auburn and he died September 11, 2007.

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Sister Joyce L Shanabarger of Evanston, Ill., and Rita A. and John Lumm of Lexington, Ohio; two grandchildren, Ryan (Lori) Lumm of Delaware, Ohio, and Abby Lumm of Columbus, Ohio; three sisters, Erma Wappes of Auburn, Marjorie Weaver of Wabash and Susan (Douglas) Kelly of Auburn; two brothers, Wayne (Phyllis) Muzzillo of Auburn and Pete (Thais) Muzzillo of Sebring, Fla.; a sister-in-law, Janet Muzzillo of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and three brothers Art, Ralph and Stanley Muzzillo.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, October 24, 2011, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Derek Sneyd will officiate. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also 1 hour prior to the service at the church Monday.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla or American Diabetes Association.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ruby Hunt

RICHMOND — Ruby C. Hunt, age 95, of Richmond, went to be with the Lord Thursday, October 20, 2011, at Friends Fellowship Community.

Mrs. Hunt

Born September 11, 1916, in Covington, Indiana, to Homer J. and Florence N. Beckelhymer Coffing, she lived in the Richmond area for most of her life. She was a 1934 graduate of Perrysville High School in Perrysville, Indiana, and she attended Purdue University.

She volunteered as the manager of the gift shop at Reid Hospital for 20 years and also at the Townsend Center.

She was a member of Christ Presbyterian Church and Psi Iota Xi in Hagerstown.

Ruby enjoyed singing in choirs and Civic Theatre. She and her husband, Myron, traveled worldwide.

Survivors include her three daughters, Sheila H. (Paul) Nollen of Macomb, Illinois, Cheryl H. Sheeler of Auburn, Indiana, and Pamela H. Rommer of Centerville, Indiana; her son, Curtis N. (Ruth) Hunt of Catlin, Illinois; 10 grandchildren, Douglas Hunt (Kelly) of Carleton, Michigan, Laura Hunt of Champaign, Illinois, Marie Powell (Toby) of Indianapolis, Indiana, Nathan Nollen (Angie) of Pontiac, Illinois, Jennifer Ford of Auburn, Indiana, Tad Sheeler of Lake in the Hills, Illinois, Ben Sheeler of Auburn, Indiana, Jon Sheeler of Auburn, Indiana, Victoria Rommer of Chicago, Illinois, and Christine Rommer of Centerville, Indiana; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Betty (Ray) Newnum of Evansville, Indiana; her sister-in-law, Winnie (Donald) Coffing; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Myron C. Hunt, who died on September 23, 2010; her parents; three sisters, Leah Louise Coffing, Mildred (Walter) Ahrens, and Anna Marie (Cliston) Ratcliff; two brothers, Donald Coffing and Charles Coffing; and son-in-law, Gary Sheeler.

Visitation for Ruby C. Hunt will be from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, October 23, 2011, at Christ Presbyterian Church, 350 Henley Road, Richmond.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 23, 2011, at Christ Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Bob Clark officiating. Burial will be in Lutherania Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Doan & Mills Funeral Home, Richmond.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Presbyterian Church, 350 Henley Road, Richmond, IN 47374, or Marion Medical Mission, 1412 Shawnee Drive, Marion, IL 62959.

Doan & Mills Funeral Home, Richmond, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Roger Greaf

GARRETT — Roger D. Greaf, 91, of Garrett, died on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mr. Greaf

He was born October 30, 1919, in Jay County, Ind., near the area of Fairview in Wayne Township to the late Russell E. and Anna (Knab) Greaf.

He attended the Fairview grade school and graduated from Portland High School. He entered the U.S. Air Corps on February 12, 1942, and served until the end of World War II.

Roger was an engineer at Siecor Corp. and Corning until his retirement in 1986. He was a Lay Minister with the United Methodist Church for 41 years and a Sunday school teacher for over 50 years. He was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge #537 in Garrett, Scottish Rite in Fort Wayne and North Indiana UMC Foundation Field Representative.

He married Ila Warner on April 16, 1993, and she survives in Garrett. Also surviving are his sons, Dr. William D. Greaf of Stony Brook, N.Y., and Steven D. Greaf (Lt. Colonel - USAR, Ret.) of Parkersburg, W.Va.; his stepsons, Dr. Barry McNamara and Dr. Craig McNamara of Montgomery, Ala., Dr. Tom Newbauer of Avon, Ind., and Joe Newbauer of Michigan; his stepdaughters, Karen Jo Renner of Fort Wayne and Marilyn Culler of Garrett; a brother, Paul E. Greaf of South Bend, Ind.; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Catherine Armantrout Greaf, on July 4, 1987, and a brother, Harold Greaf.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, October 24, 2011, at 11 a.m. at the Garrett United Methodist Church and at 3 p.m. at the Green Park Cemetery Chapel in Portland, Ind., with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will follow in Green Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and on Monday at the church from 10-11 a.m. A Masonic service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church or Garrett High School Marching Band

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Frank Davis

ANGOLA — Frank Davis, 64, formerly of Hamilton died Friday, Oct. 21, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Davis

He was born July 2, 1947, in Garrett to Lee and Polly (Miller) Davis, they have both passed away.

He was a 1965 graduate of Garrett High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. He owned and operated Davis and Son Construction for 30 years before retiring in 2005. He was a member of SonLight Church in Angola.

Frank is survived by five children, Frank Davis Jr. of Angola, Elizabeth Davis of Angola, Chrystal Davis of Angola, Jason Davis of Angola and Kathy (Brent) LeLand of Pleasant Lake; 14 grandchildren; and two sisters, Patricia Hendrickson of Auburn and Wanda Davis of Garrett.

Services will be 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery, Kendallville. Calling is 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to the family c/o Kathy Leland. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Steven Bosler

LEO — Steven Mark Bosler Sr., 51, passed away at home Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011 at Harvest Fellowship Church, Leo with calling after 1 p.m. Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson is in charge of arrangments.

STAR
OCTOBER 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

He was a mechanic extraordinare

Clarence Schmuck built many race cars

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — He was a legend in the area stock car racing world, a family man and an unofficial greeter at Walmart in Kendallville who enjoyed talking to people.

Clarence Charles Schmuck, 93, of Kendallville died Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, but his legacy lives on with those who remember his auto mechanic skills and car racing know how.

"The older he got, the better he got as a mechanic," said Harold Uhl Jr., who remembered as a 16-year-old working after school with Mr. Schmuck in the Schmuck and Uhl Garage. Uhl's father, Harold Uhl, and Schmuck owned the service station and garage at 122-129 W. William St. The building is still there, but no longer is a garage.

"He was pretty good. When he took apart an engine and put it back together, it was better than it was," Uhl said.

Mr. Schmuck's career in automobile mechanics began in 1941 with the Uhl Oil Co. In 1962, he joined Harold Uhl, and they owned and operated Schmuck and Uhl Garage. He also worked for a time for Campbell Chevrolet as a mechanic and service manager.

"Dad built his first race car engine while working for Campbell Chevrolet," recalled Mr. Schmuck's son, LeRoy. It was a six-cylinder Chevrolet at a time when most everyone used Ford flathead V-8 engines for racing. "I remember it sat on the floor next to his tool cabinet, and he would pour gasoline in the carburetor, start it, and show people how good it sounded."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Clarence Schmuck was a legend in the area stock car racing community in the 1950s-1970s.

Mr. Schmuck started racing and building stock cars in 1953 and owned multiple championship cars. Many well-known area drivers raced in his cars, including Jesse Yates, Mike Kline, Joe Wallace, Howard Bice, Ken Bodenhafer, Hugh Eshelman and Cecil Wells. They raced all over in his cars at tracks such as the Noble County Fairgrounds, Avilla Motor Speedway, Angola Speedway and the Baer Field Raceway.

LeRoy recalled how his father and a friend pooled their money and bought a used race car from Ray Kline. They repainted it with a 4-inch paint brush and installed the Chevy engine in it. Cecil Wells drove it in races at the fairgrounds and Bryan, Ohio.

Schmuck also test-drove his race cars as quietly as he could on Noble County's back roads. "There was less traffic back then," remembered LeRoy.

The Rev. Sam Weimer, who presided over Mr. Schmuck's funeral, was one of his drivers.

"More than once he made me a race car motor," said Weimer. "It didn't matter if we finished second or third in a race and didn't get the checkered flag, he wanted to know why. He gave many of us young guys a boost to help us along in our passion for racing."

Mr. Schmuck was proud of those who drove his cars. He kept a scrapbook of his drivers' races. He was inducted into the Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame at the Avilla Motor Speedway and the Angola Speedway. After 33 years of racing, Schmuck retired from the sport in 1986.

He enjoyed watching NASCAR and driver Mark Martin's team. He knew Martin when his racing career was getting started in the area.

After his retirement, he developed a love for painting — particularly old antique saws, said his daughter, Brenda Conrad. He liked woodworking, and made several grandfather clocks, including a completed clock he donated to an auction in support of the Noble County Council on Aging.

Mr. Schmuck became an "unofficial" greeter at the Walmart store in Kendallville. He often sat in the entry area to pass the time and made many friends, said Conrad. The manager gave him a special Walmart hat.

Mr. Schmuck and his wife, Dalia Virginia Freed Schmuck, enjoyed nearly 58 years together. She preceded him in death in August 1999.

In addition to his son, LeRoy, and daughter, Brenda, he is survived by a son, Daryl, and a daughter, Phyllis Hall, three grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister, Gertrude Arnold.

He was laid to rest in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Deloris May

AUBURN — Deloris May, 90, of Auburn died Saturday Oct. 22, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

She was born Jan. 16, 1921, in Bryan, Ohio to Garcia and Rosa Bernice (Mavis) DeLong. They preceded her in death.

Mrs. May

She was a homemaker.

She married Richard E. May on July 4, 1939, in Coldwater, Mich. He died Aug. 7, 1980.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Mary May of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Owen and Dennis Ruhl.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with calling Monday from 6-8 p.m. Burial will be in Farmer Cemetery, Farmer, Ohio.

Memorials are to New Hope Ministries, Warren. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 25 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jack Moats

AUBURN — Jack Denis Moats, 94, of Auburn, Ind., died at Parkview North Hospital Saturday, October 22, 2011.

Mr. Moats

Jack was born in Garrett, Ind., on July 7, 1917, the son of Forrest H. and Georgia Marie (Snyder) Moats.

He graduated from Garrett High School in 1935, where he excelled in both football and basketball.

Jack joined the Navy, where he served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga as a Water Tender. He was discharged in 1939 and began his career on the B&O Railroad as a fireman. He answered the call to again serve his country in 1941, when he reported to duty in Norfolk, Va., aboard the USS WestPoint. The WestPoint was being converted from a luxury liner to a troop transport and Jack was part of the crew that put the ship into commission. He served on the WestPoint from 1941-1945, carrying troops and even nurses to both the European and Asian theatres of war.

Jack married his hometown sweetheart, Ferne Zimmerman, on June 25, 1944, in Garrett, before returning to service on the WestPoint until the war ended in 1945, achieving the rate/rank of Chief Water Tender. The ship was in Singapore during the Japanese bombing and miraculously escaped, unscathed, transporting the British civilians who lived there to safety. He had many interesting tales to tell of his time aboard the WestPoint.

Following the war, Jack returned to work on the B&O where he retired as an engineer in 1982. He is one of the last, if not the last, of a group of B&O railroad engineers that made the transition from steam engines to diesels. He was selected, shortly before his retirement, to engineer a renovated steam engine, which was headed east on a tour, from Chicago to Garrett. Also a licensed embalmer, Jack assisted his brother-in-law, Forrest Zimmerman, at the Zimmerman Funeral Home in Garrett.

Jack was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Elks Lodge, the American Legion, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Garrett Alumni Association. He was also a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. He enjoyed playing golf, until losing his sight, Garrett athletics, and IU football and basketball. Jack was one of IU play-by-play announcer Don Fischer's biggest fans.

He also loved to attend his ship's reunions. He and Ferne were able to attend most of them from 1971-2010 and established many wonderful friendships. A defining moment was when he was able to attend the long overdue WWII Memorial, while attending a reunion at Arlington, Va., in 2005. He also cherished a ride in the steam engine on the Sugar Line Railroad, which was a logging railroad in Yosemite National Park in 2008, as well as a trip up Pike's Peak with his family in 2006.

He was a true patriot and a wonderful husband and father.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Gwen Steigmeyer and Jeanette Balthazar.

Jack is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ferne; a son John of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Jay Hall of Raleigh, N.C., and one granddaughter, Megan Hall, also of Raleigh.

Funeral arrangements will be handled by Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Visitation will be on Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. The funeral service will be officiated by the Rev. Wilbur Yates, at the funeral home, on Thursday at 11 a.m. A military graveside service will follow at Christian Union Cemetery.

Memorials should be directed to the First United Methodist Church in Auburn or to the organization of the donor's choice.

Lenora Hoffman

AUBURN — Lenora E. Hoffman, 91, of Auburn, went to be with her Lord on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Hoffman

Mrs. Hoffman retired from Magnavox in Fort Wayne. She was also a homemaker.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

Lenora made friends everywhere she went and never knew a stranger. She loved her flowers, gardening, cats, and her horse. She was famous for her homemade candy, was a great cook, and was also a traditional old fashion farm woman. She was a great card player.

Lenora was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was loved by all and will be missed by many.

She was born April 14, 1920, in Churubusco to Newton and Flossie (Fulk) Killworth.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Gary George of Garrett, and Colleen and Don Alwood of Auburn; four grandchildren, Dawn Walters, Tim Alwood, Mark George, and Michael George; nine great-grandchildren, Tyler Walters, Travis Grocock, Nicholas Howard, Marissa George, Kristen George, Calvin George, Claire George, Clayton George, and Cailyn George; a great-great granddaughter, Mea Grocock; and a brother, Ralph Killworth of Churubusco.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Basil D. Hoffman; a son, Thomas Hoffman; a sister, Helen Yant; and two brothers, Albert Killworth and Earl Killworth.

A graveside service will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday at Eel River Cemetery, 11006 Carroll Road, Churubusco, Indiana, with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson officiating.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to The Church at Garrett, 1370 S. Randolph St., Garrett, Indiana, 46738 or DeKalb County Humane Shelter, 5221 U.S. 6, Butler, Indiana, 46721.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Marcia Riley

KENDALLVILLE — Marcia Lou Riley, age 71, of Kendallville, died Friday, October 21, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett. Ms. Riley was born in Kendallville, Indiana, on December 24, 1939, to the late William A. Mapes and Garnet B. (Ross) Mapes.

Ms. Riley

She graduated from Kendallville High School in 1958 and went on to study cosmetology in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She opened her own salon, Mar-Lana Boutique, in the early '60s and worked for many years before retiring in 1992.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Kendallville and was active in the choir and also served as director of the youth chorus for several years.

Marcia enjoyed music, singing, sewing and was a faithful fan of the Chicago Cubs. She also loved spending time with her family and granddaughter, Holly.

Survivors include a daughter, Elana and Rick Young of Garrett, Ind.; a brother, William and Marilyn Mapes of Phoenix, Ariz.; a sister, Carolyn and Perry Hirst of Anderson, Ind.; two stepsons, Mark Burden of LaOtto, Ind., and Christopher Burden of Auburn, Ind.; and a granddaughter, Holly Young of Garrett, Ind.

She was preceded in death by a son, John Randolph; and brothers, Neil Thomas Mapes and John Ross Mapes.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, October 28, 2011, at Midwest Funeral Home & Cremation Society, 4602 Newaygo Road, Fort Wayne.

Preferred memorials are to Heartland Hospice or DeKalb Humane Shelter.

Ronald Kearns

GARRETT — Ronald Lee Kearns, 62, of Garrett died on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at his brother's home in LaOtto.

He was born February 11, 1949, in Fort Wayne to Karl K. and Phyllis C. (Traxler) Kearns. He married Mary "Leadesia" Sommers on March 1, 1995, and she died on December 27, 1999.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 1988 as a Staff Sergeant and then worked at Momentive Performance Metals in Garrett for 11 years.

Ronald was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett and the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

He is survived by his mother, Phyllis Kearns of LaOtto; a son, Christopher and Cory Kearns of Furlong, Pa.; a daughter, Michelle and Nick Handshoe of Garrett; a brother, Karl K. and Dawn Kearns Jr. of LaOtto; two sisters, Karen and Booth Elliott of LaOtto and Diane and William Robb of Fort Wayne; and five grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his father.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Garrett with the Rev. David Mix officiating. A military graveside service will follow in Christian Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 28, 2011, from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church in Garrett

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ora Smith

HUDSON — Ora Dale Smith Jr., 68, passed away at 10:40 P.M. Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, at his home.

Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith retired after 28 years at Tenneco.

He was born in Noble County on December 13, 1942, to Ora Dale and Gertrude (Ball) Smith Sr. He married Linda Jack on July 1, 1996, and she passed away on July 29, 2008.

He was preceded in death his mother.

Surviving are his father, Ora Dale Smith Sr. of Angola; two sons, Kevin Smith of Ashley and Brian Smith of Ashley; two daughters, Ronda Smith of Auburn and Dawn Nash of Auburn; a brother, Alvin Smith of Angola; three sisters, Ruth Little of Butler, Barbara Hershey of Hudson and Doris Ann Richie of LaGrange; and grandchildren, James Eric and Mimie Whitt, Daniel Alan Whitt, Amanda Renee Smith, Brandon Lee Smith, Chad Allen Smith, Theresa Egly, Christina Marie Smith, Kasey Jones Smith, Justin Tyler and Ciara Desiré Smith, Kyle Glen Nash, Dylan Joseph Nash, Ryan Patrick Nash and Angelina Marie Smith; and his great greatchildren: Myron Smith, Ashton James Whitt, Kira Page, Ethan Alexander Whitt, Alexis Marie Whitt, Jayden Tyler Smith, Taveah René Smith, Aurora Smith, Jaxson Alexander Smith.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, with calling 2 hours prior to service.

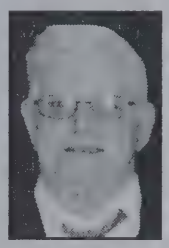
Pastor Craig Burkholder will officiate and burail will follow in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 28 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Charles Williard

WATERLOO — Charles Leonard Williard, 62, of Waterloo died Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at his residence.


Mr. Williard

He was born November 5, 1948, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and served during the Vietnam War.

He married Darlene Putman April 16, 1977 in Fostoria, Ohio.

He had worked at the Auburn Foundry and most recently at Foamex in Auburn.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Williard of Waterloo; daughters and sons-in-law, Stacie and Brad Laney of Auburn and Misty and Sean Middleton of Auburn; sons Charles Williard and William Williard; a daughter, Heather Williard; six grandchildren, Mason, Taysha, Dayton, Anastasia, Dominic and Ahryah; his father, David Taylor of Ohio; and his sister, Gladys Dye of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Pauline Taylor, and a sister, Sylvia Davis.

Funeral service is Saturday at 3 p.m., with visitation two hours prior to the service, at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a message of condolence, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 29 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Carolyn McBride

FREMONT — Carolyn A. McBride, 75, of Fremont and formerly of Garrett died Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. McBride

Mrs. McBride was a homemaker.

She was a 1954 graduate of Garrett High School.

Mrs. McBride was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola.

She was born May 31, 1936, in Garrett to George and Thelma (Case) Brown. She married John W. McBride in June 1956. He survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are two sons, John A. and Connie McBride of Pleasant Lake and Mike W. and Dawn McBride of Coldwater, Mich.; two sisters, Norma Jean Dodenhoff of Fort Wayne and Janice and Roland Vasconcellos of Bryan, Ohio; three brothers, Jerry and Barb Brown of Michigan, John and Dianna Brown of Indiana and David and Kay Brown of Colorado; three brothers-in-law, Rival McBride of Columbia City, Jerald McBride of Garrett and Steve McBride of Kentucky; and four grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with Father Bernard Zajdel officiating. Burial will be in Fremont Cemetery in Fremont.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Send condolences online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

STAR
OCTOBER 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dale Nickols was heroic, compassionate

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Dale Nickols was an auctioneer, a businessman, a fisherman, a talker, and active with veterans.

Mr. Nickols died Oct. 16 at his Hamilton home. He was 90.

Mr. Nickols was the co-owner of Hamilton Real Estate and Auction Services. He was known as a trustworthy businessman. His son, Randy Nickols, worked along side his father for 45 years. "We only had one argument (during that time) and it was a disagreement," Randy said. "We've been together so long we knew each other's thoughts. He was my dad, my mentor, my partner, and one of my best friends. There wasn't anything we couldn't discuss."

Randy said his father was a "compassionate businessman," who auctioned off a little bit of everything over the years, including a box of condoms. At one time, they ran a Saturday night auction house, Nickols Auction Barn, that closed in 1986 because Randy said it became difficult to find good merchandise.

Mr. Nickols was born Aug. 10, 1921 in Hamilton to John and Callie (Dangler) Nickols. After graduating from Hamilton High School, Mr. Nickols worked for the railroad putting in ties, hammering and driving spikes. During that time, he also farmed with his grandfather with horses.

Mr. Nickols was a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II. Randy said he refused to get a deferment for working on the railroad because he wanted to serve his country. Mr. Nickols was wounded in battle and was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. He was a member of the Hamilton American Legion Post 467 — the last four or five years he was historian — and was a life member of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

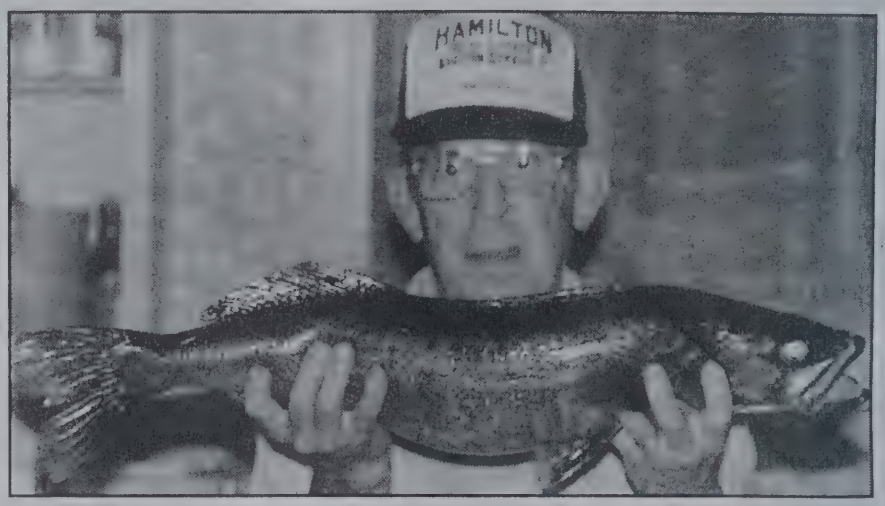


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dale Nickols loved to fish and showed off a prized walleye catch. Mr. Nickols died Oct. 16. He was 90.

On April 3, 1947 he married Carolyn "Kay" Kendrick Nickols and she died Aug. 8, 1999.

After the war, Mr. Nickols returned to Hamilton and farming with his grandfather. "When he got back, he bought a tractor because he said he was tired of looking at the horse's behind," Randy said.

Mr. Nickols was also active with the Hamilton Fish and Game Club. He went deer hunting a little, but loved fishing. "He loved it," Randy said. "He had his own pond and filled it with bluegill, bass and catfish. He got on his golf cart and the fish would feel the vibration and come to the surface (to eat)."

Usually before work each day, Mr. Nickols went for a long walk with his faithful bird dog, Buckwheat, at his side.

He also enjoyed singing karaoke, dancing, visiting with people and socializing.

Mr. Nickols served on the Alcohol Beverage Committee in Steuben County. It was a job he took seriously. Randy said his father planned vacations and fishing trips around committee meetings.

Mr. Nickols was an elected Richland Township trustee and also served on the Hamilton School Board.

His nephew, Kirby Myers, of Hamilton, recalled his uncle was a gentleman who liked to have fun. "He was really mild mannered. I never saw him mad," Myers said. "He was the first Realtor in Hamilton."

Myers' father, Don, farmed with Mr. Nickols and they would bale hay for others. "They always grew corn, oats and beans," Myers said. "He was a tough guy and never took any medicine."

Mr. Nickols is survived by his three sons: Randy (Glenda) Nickols, of Hamilton; Brad Nickols, of Flagler Beach, Fla; and Rudy (Gwen) Mezosi, of Mesa, Ariz; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, two sisters: Chloe Myers and Lenore Nemeth and one brother, Dean Nickols.

A military graveside burial for Mr. Nickols was conducted by the Hamilton American Legion Post 467 in Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton.

Memorials may be made to the Hamilton American Legion Post 467.

STAR
OCTOBER 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Darl Hogan

AUBURN — Darl D. Hogan, 60, of Angeles City, Philippines, died Sept. 5, 2011, in Angeles City from stage 4 throat and lymph cancer.

Mr. Hogan worked for Lockheed Martin from 1991-2002 in several U.S. locations and retired at Pilsung, Korea, location.

He was a master sergeant with U.S. Marine Corps from 1970-1991 serving in Vietnam and Iraq.

Mr. Hogan

Mr. Hogan was a life member of VFW Post 9892 in LaUnion, Philippines, VVA Chapter 887 in Angeles City and American Legion Post 63 in Tacloban City, Leyte.

He was the son of Lelia Mabel and Lewis Hogan.

Mr. Hogan attended DeKalb High School.

Surviving are his wife, Marites O. Hogan; a son, Ian C. Hogan; a daughter Jann M. Hogan; four sisters, Margaret Gonzalez, Pat Park, Wilma Searfoss and Virginia Hansen; a brother, Richard Hogan; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Larry, Wendall and Russell.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Sept. 15 at Clark Veterans Cemetery in Angeles City, with militar rites by VFW Post 2485.

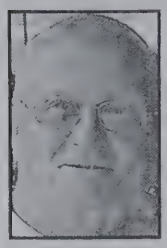
Memorial services and dinner will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Auburn Moose Lodge, 402 S. Main St.

Memorials are to VFW Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines.

STAR
OCTOBER 31 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Dale Weilbaker

AUBURN — Dale Weilbaker, 70, died Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.



Mr. Weilbaker

He was born Aug. 30, 1941, in Leo to Earl and Maude (Evard) Weilbaker; they have both passed away.

He was a supervisor at Dana Corp, in Syracuse and also worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He bowled for many years in the Moose Bowling League. He was a member of the Auburn Moose Lodge where he was past Junior Governor of the lodge. He was a member of the Ashley Masonic Lodge and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Dale married Ruth Ann Porter on May 23, 1964, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn; she passed away Oct. 30, 2010.

He is survived by four daughters, Ronda Weilbaker of Enon, Ohio, Michelle Weilbaker of Vero Beach, Fla., Traci (Mark) Schilling of Terre Haute, and Shannon Weilbaker of Auburn; 10 grandchildren, Chad Balser, Jennifer (Aaron) Williams, Christina Corripio, Marina Conroy, Jacob Schilling, Taylor Schilling, Madelyn Schilling, Chase McCollough, Morgan McCollough, and John McCollough; a stepgrand-daughter, Shawn (Erica) Falls; six great-grandchil-dren; three step-great-grandchildren; a brother, Dean (Gloria) Weilbaker of Leo; three sisters, Faye Shears of Leo, Bette Souder of Leo and Sue (Al) Burrell of Florida; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Jean Weilbaker, Bob Bobay and Linda Weilbaker.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. Calling is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Mooseheart or Moosehaven.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Janet Beaty

AUBURN — Janet C. Beaty of Auburn died Monday, October 31, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She was born in 1927 in Massillon, Ohio, to the late Helen (Provines) and Andrew Jackson Carmer.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1945.

Mrs. Beaty worked for several companies including Dodge Automobile Company in Detroit, Mich., and Messenger Corporation in Auburn from where she retired after 35 years of service in the sales department.

While being an avid bowler and golfer, she won four women's golf championships at Greenhurst Country Club in Auburn. Being able to say that she was a member of the Girl Scouts of America pleased her greatly and many of the Scout principals greatly influenced her life. She was also a member of Tri Kappa Sorority and Auburn First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years Robert E. Beaty of Auburn; sisters, Carole J. Carmer and Doris Sanxter, both of Auburn; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by a son, Stewart Manson Beaty; a brother, Harold Carmer; and sisters, Jean Fitzsimmons and Marian Carmer.

Funeral service is at 11 a.m. Thursday, with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Wilber Yates officiating.

Cremation will take place following the services.

At the family's request, no sympathy flowers or memorial contributions are requested.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Camden Coombs

AUBURN — Camden "Gene" Coombs of Auburn passed away on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola, Ind.

He was born on July 12, 1940, in Sutton, West Virginia, to Boyd and Doris (Brady) Coombs.

Camden was survived by his wife, Helen (Ankney) Coombs; two children, Regina Beattie, and Rachel (Graham) Reeves; four stepchildren, Gary Caryer, Roy Caryer, Joe Caryer and Carla McStoots; five grandchildren, Reanne, Wesley, Dorian and Corbin Beattie, and Madeline Reeves; 11 stepgrandchildren; 11 stepgreat-grandchildren; one brother, Jimmie Coombs; and two sisters, Eva (Robert) Carter and Sue (Dale) Moore.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Burnell Coombs, Glen Coombs, Charles Coombs and Carl Coombs; sisters, Kate Hoover, Carolyn Freeman, Pauline Rhodes and Thelma Coombs; and one stepson, Homer Caryer.

Camden "Gene" Coombs worked for the Pittsford Area Schools in the maintenance department. He was a born salesman who could sell anything to anybody.

He loved spending time with his family and especially the "newborns" in his family. He also enjoyed raising horses and allowing others to race them for him.

He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Auburn.

A funeral service to honor the life of Mr. Camden "Gene" Coombs will be held at the Hampton-Kurtz Funeral Home, 3380 Caleton Road, Hillsdale, Mich., on Friday, November 4, 2011, beginning at noon, with Pastor Daniel White officiating.

Interment will follow in the Northlawn Cemetery.

The family will receive friends for visitation on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home in Hillsdale. They will also receive friends on Friday from 11 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Friends who wish may make memorial contributions to a charity of their choice.

Dennis Lingner

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Dennis D. Lingner, 60, of Las Vegas, Nev., died Oct. 9, 2011, at Nathan Adelson Hospice.

Mr. Lingner worked at the Flamingo Hotel.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. he was a lifetime member of the Garrett V.F.W.

Mr. Lingner

He was a resident of Garrett for many years.

He was born on Oct. 19, 1950, in Jefferson, Iowa, to Elmer and Wyona Lingner. He was married to Debbie Steury. She has been deceased for many years.

His brother, Jerry D. Lingner, has been deceased since Nov. 18, 1995, and he was a resident of Garrett.

He leaves behind his parents, Carl and Wyona Robbins of Garrett; a son-in-law, Ryan Bohling, and his daughter, Heather Bohling, of Las Vegas; his granddaughter, Alexxis Bohling of Las Vegas; and a sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Mike Lewis of Garrett, and their children, Chad, Bryan, Mikey, Rachelle and Christi of Garrett.

Services have taken place.

Ralph Clark

WATERLOO — Ralph W. Clark, 81, of Waterloo died Wednesday Nov. 2, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born April 29, 1930, in Waterloo to Raymond and Clara (Miller) Clark.

Mr. Clark was an electrician and he owned and operated C & S Electric in Waterloo for 42 years before retiring in 2008.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1947 to 1950.

He was a past member of the Waterloo Masonic Lodge, York Rite and Fort Wayne Scottish Rite.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, David Lewis and Sarah Clark of Hicksville, Ohio; two daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah Ann and John Hughes of Fort Wayne and Rhonda Marie and Andreas Galavez of Mexico: six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Roger Clark and Delbert Clark, and a sister, Opal Mobley.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God Church with Rev. David Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Memorials are to Soul's Harbor Assembly of God Church.

Condolences may be left at www.fellerandclark.com.

Ethel Bohrer

GARRETT — Ethel V. (Schurr) Bohrer, 101, died at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

There will be no calling or services for the public and private services will take place at Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett, IN Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice. Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

Julie Finn

AUBURN — Julie A. Finn, 67, of Auburn, died Friday Nov. 4, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born June 21, 1944, in Seattle, Wash., the daughter of the late Joe and Bernita Moore.

Julie grew up in Kalamazoo, Mich., and was a graduate of St. Augustine High School.

She married Joe Finn on Jan. 14, 1967, and he survives in Auburn.

Mrs. Finn

She worked many years in the optometric field for doctors in Auburn and Fort Wayne. She was a member of Tri Kappa, Bridge-A-Rama, Welcome Wagon and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where she enjoyed being a lector. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, sister and friend to so many people.

She is survived by her husband, Joe Finn of Auburn; sons and daughters-in-law, Jason and Liz Finn of Fort Wayne and Brian and Beth of Chicago; grandchildren, McKayla, Evellyn, Leo, Isabelle, Archer, Penelope and Julia; brothers and sisters-in-law, Tom and Laura Leigh Moore of Dallas, Texas, Richard and Sandra Moore of Troy, Mich. and Robert and Cindy Moore of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; sister-in-law Helen Finn of Garrett; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Hal and Milly Finn of Auburn; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Sandy and Larry Rose of Kalamazoo; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Arnold Finn in 1993.

Mass of Christian burial will be Tuesday 10 a.m. with visitation one hour prior at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Rev. Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials are to Alzheimers Association or Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Erwin Sellke

AUBURN — Erwin A. Sellke, 92 of Auburn, died on Friday, Nov. 4, 2011, at Parkview North Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 1-2 p.m. at the church. Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Michael Hall-Polich

WATERLOO — Michael Tyler Hall-Polich, 18, of Waterloo died Thursday Nov. 3, 2011, at his home in Waterloo.

He was born Sept. 2, 1993, in Fort Worth, Texas. His mother and stepfather, Barbara Hall-Polich and Ron Lowe, survive in Waterloo and his father Michael Rohn Polich survives in Fort Worth.

Mr. Hall-Polich

Tyler was a senior at DeKalb High School. He enjoyed playing his guitar and was planning on joining the Marines after graduation.

Besides his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Aireal Polich of Fort Wayne and Crystal Polich of Fort Worth; a stepbrother, Ronnie Lowe of Angola; a stepsister, Zara Lowe of Waterloo; grandparents Roy and Janet Hall of Auburn; an aunt, Deb Hall of Fort Worth; an uncle, Keith Hall of Fort Worth; a niece, Destiny; and a nephew, Ethan.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo, with Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. Calling is 2 hours prior to the service at the church, from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials can be directed to the family, in care of Barbara Hall-Polich.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left at www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR
NOVEMBER 6 2011 Auburn, Indiana

He just liked making people smile

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Auburn resident Robert "Bob" Stauffer was a kid at heart who enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and would give a stranger the shirt off his back.

Stauffer, 59, passed away Oct. 2 in his Auburn home.

Thea Stauffer said her husband was born to Robert B. and Jessie Stauffer and grew up in Woodburn. There, he played on the high school basketball team — even though he stood only 5 feet, 10 inches tall.

"He didn't care. He thought he was the star player," Thea said.

Thea and Bob met by chance when he took a job at her father's restaurant. The two were together 10 years before marrying in 1988.

The two set off to begin their life together as a blended family in Fort Wayne. He had three children from a previous marriage — Derk, Stephanie and Beau — and she had one, Kori Miller.

"He loved all his kids," Miller said. "He would do anything for all of us. He was my hero."

The couple moved to Auburn more than 10 years ago to have room for their grandchildren to play. Their home on C.R. 29 was the only place her husband ever wanted to be.

"He was a homebody. He much more enjoyed riding around with the grandkids on the lawnmower than going out," Thea said. "He got along so well with the grandkids because he was one."

When Bob did go out, though, he never met a stranger, Thea said. From running jokes with local cashiers and his family doctor to choosing local merchants instead of corporate stores, Thea said, she was shocked at the number of people who had a story and kind word to share about her husband at his funeral.

There was the time Bob bought a window air conditioner for their neighbor without being asked.

"He was worried he would get too hot in his house," Thea said.

Or the times he ditched his family for a few hours on Thanksgiving several years in a row to deliver pumpkin pie to the security guards at Steel Dynamics Inc.

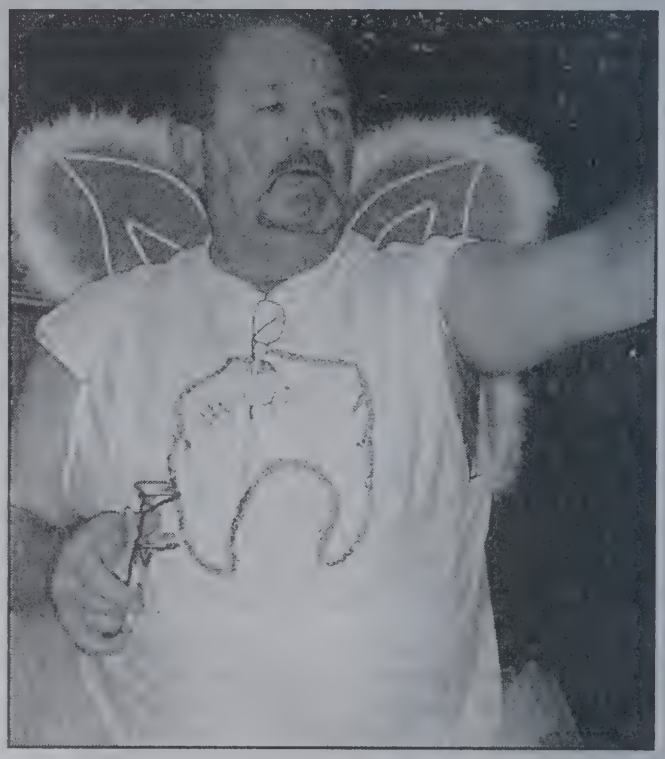


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Stauffer was a fun-loving guy. He used to dress up in wild costumes for his granddaughter's birthday in October.

"They were customers of his (at his longtime job as a salesman at Welder Services Inc.), and they had to work on Thanksgiving," Thea said.

"That is just how he was," Miller said. "He just had that type of outgoing personality."

Bob just liked making others smile, Thea said as she rattled off several other instances of Bob's generosity.

Each year he would dress up in an outrageous Halloween costume to attend his grandchild's October birthday party. One year, he donned a Tooth Fairy costume, complete with silver, sparkly wings and a tutu.

"He was just a fun-loving guy," Miller said.

STAR
NOVEMBER 6 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Stephen Bevington

ST. JOE — Stephen R. Bevington 54, died Friday at DeKalb Health.

He was born on July 4, 1957, in Fort Wayne to Forrest and Betty (Mavis) Bevington.

Steve was a 1975 graduate of Eastside High School. He married Jacalyn Campbell on December 30, 1977 in Butler.

He was a supervisor at Nucor Fastener in St. Joe and a farmer.

Steve was a proud member and supporter of the Eastside football team, playing on the Eastside team of 1974 that finished 8-1. He was member of County Line Church of God, Concord Township Advisory Board, and a former member of the Concord/St. Joe Fire Department. He was very active in the church, as a Sunday school teacher and singing in the choir; he enjoyed the outdoors, sports, and farming the family farm.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie Bevington of St. Joe; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rachel and Justin Coomer of Woodburn and Jessie Bevington of St. Joe; his mother, Betty Bevington of St. Joe; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Cindy and Mike Stauffer of Fort Wayne and Laura and Jim Beckman of Petersburg, Ky.

He was preceded in death by a son, Cory J., and his father Forrest Bevington.

Funeral services will be Tuesday Nov. 8, 2011. at 11 a.m. at County Line Church of God with Pastor Stuart Kruse officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 2-7 p.m. and one hour before services at County Line Church of God. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe.

Preferred memorials are to County Line Church of God Building Fund or Southeast Fire Department.

Arrangements are by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
NOVEMBER 7 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Harry Oberlin

BUTLER — Harry A. Oberlin, 83, formerly of Butler, died Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011, at Indiana University Health Bedford Hospital in Bedford.

He was born Aug. 22, 1928, in Butler to Eber and Clara (Healy) Oberlin. He formerly worked for Goshen Tree Service and as a truck driver for Troyer Poultry.

Survivors include four sons, Kirby (Teresa) Oberlin of Millersburg, Tracy (Pam) Oberlin of Ligonier, Harry (Lindsay) Oberlin II of Millersburg, and Corey (Debbie) Oberlin of Millersburg; three daughters, Deborah Navarro of Goshen, Cynthia (Mike) Ziese of Goshen, and Tabatha Conrad of Goshen; three sisters, Annabell Hollinger of Auburn, Martha Curcio of Butler, and Mary Short of Edgerton, Ohio; 25 grandchildren; and 19 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Andrea Kipp; his parents; and three brothers, Howard, Roscoe, and Robert Oberlin.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with burial in the Butler Cemetery. Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Millersburg American Legion. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

STAR
NOVEMBER 8 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Patricia Brown

AUBURN — Patricia A. "Pete" Brown, 80, of Auburn died Monday, Nov. 7, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

She worked for the County Line Cheese Company in rural Auburn for 25 years, retiring in September of 1991.

Mrs. Brown was a former member of the Women of the Moose Lodge 261 in Auburn.

She was born April 4, 1931, in Butler, to John and Louise (Pifer) Moran.

Mrs. Brown

She married Clyde Brown on April 16, 1954, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2003.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Don Thacker of Auburn; a son, Dennis Brown of Auburn; two sisters, Norma Martin of Beech Grove and Lillian Scobey of Antwerp, Ohio; six grandchildren, Nicole Hedrick, Dana Hedrick, Casey Brown, Aaron Brown, Kristy Thacker, and Blaine Thacker; and seven great-grandchildren, Faith Hedrick, Jayden Hedrick, Makinzy Pace, Kaya Helmkamp, Kyler Helmkamp, Ava Helmkamp and Kaiden Thacker.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Jeff Brown; and a sister, Donna VondBruskin.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter or the American Cancer Society.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Mary Snell

INDIANAPOLIS — Mary Ellen Turner Snell 89, of Indianapolis and formerly of LaOtto, died Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011.

Mrs. Snell

Mrs. Snell was a graduate of Huntertown High School.

She worked for General Electric Co. and later served as secretary at LaOtto Elementary School for 19 years. She volunteered at Robin's Nest Day Care at Robin Run Village.

Mrs. Snell was a past member of the LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary, Noble County Chorus, LaOtto Wesleyan Church, and Hopewell Presbyterian Church. She had served as church organist and pianist for many years.

She was born Nov. 19, 1921, in Topeka the daughter of Jess and Alta Gray.

Surviving are a son, Bruce E. and Beverly Turner; a grandson; a granddaughter; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Perry J. Turner; her husbands, Glenn E. Turner and Jay M. Snell; and two brothers, James J. Gray and Paul W. Gray.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Leppert Mortuary, Nora Chapel, Indianapolis. A graveside service to follow at 3:30 p.m. at Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

A visitation will be from 2:30-8 p.m. Friday and one hour prior to the services Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association, LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department or the American Cancer Society.

Sign a guestbook at www.leppertmortuary.com.

Frances Sechler

ST. JOE — A celebration of life service for Frances Sechler will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Marks Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

Mrs. Sechler, 85, of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.

Memorials are to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa.

David Greenfield

AUBURN — David M. Greenfield, 63, of Auburn died Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mr. Greenfield

Mr. Greenfield worked as a bricklayer for Slater Steel for over 32 years. He then went to work as a machine operator for Alcoa Automotive for eight years, retiring in 2010.

He is a member of the Auburn Baptist Church and a former member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

He was born Feb. 11, 1948, in Garrett to Edwin C. and Coralyn J. (Leas) Greenfield. He married Donna J. Goings on June 22, 1991, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son, Isaac A. Greenfield of Fort Wayne; and two daughters, Bronwen Greenfield of Indianapolis and Caitlin M. Greenfield of Warsaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Dennis A. Greenfield.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Eckhart Public Library in Auburn.

Send online condolences to www.fellerandclark.com.

Lawrence Shearman

FREMONT — Lawrence H. "Sherm" Shearman, 70, died Tuesday night, Nov. 8, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Center in Angola.

Mr. Shearman was born Feb. 15, 1941 in Fremont to Clarence and Winona C. (Dick) Shearman. He married Dianne Love May 16, 1999, and she survives.

Sherm enjoyed bowling, fishing and hunting.

He was a member of the FFA in high school.

Surviving are two daughters, Karen Shearman of Fremont and Lorie Stearns of Angola; three sons, Robert Krontz of Angola, Dennis Krontz of Butler and Jeffery Krontz of Fremont.

Also surviving Sherm are 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one grandchild.

Services will be Saturday, November 12, 2011, at 2 p.m. at the Metz Christian Church, with calling 1 hour prior to services. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011, at Powers Cemetery east of Angola at 11 a.m.

Memorials may be given to the church.

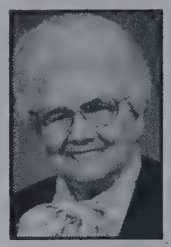
H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

To sign the guestbook or to leave condolences to the family go to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

STAR
NOVEMBER 11 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Bertha Lafever-Fetter

AVILLA — Bertha Belle Lafever-Fetter, age 101, died on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.



Mrs. LaFever-Fetter

Mrs. LaFever-Fetter was born in Garrett, Indiana, on October 31, 1910, to the late Daniel and Goldie (Freeman) Pepple.

She first married Oscar LaFever on January 11, 1930, and he preceded her in death on August 7, 1965.

She later married her second husband, Oland Fetter, on June 5, 1969, in Butler, Indiana, and he died July 2, 1981.

Bertha was a homemaker and also employed with Electric Motors in Garrett for 16 years.

She was a member of the LaOtto Wesleyan Church where she taught Sunday school for 40 years.

She loved reading her Bible and playing the piano and the organ.

Bertha enjoyed quilting, crocheting, and sewing.

She served on the board of directors for the Butler City Library and was a past secretary for the DeKalb County Home Demonstration Club.

Survivors include a son-in-law, Devon Ihrie of Kendallville; a stepson, Hillis Fetter of Casselberry, Florida; five grandchildren, Dan and Corene Ihrie of Indianapolis, Mike and Shirley Ihrie of Kendallville, Steve and Sue Ihrie of Fort Wayne, Thomas Ihrie of Pennsylvania and Rose and Weldon Cline of Kendallville; nine great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Joyce Marie Ihrie, who died on September 12, 1984; three sisters, Hazel Rhodes, Bessie Huff and Mabel Barbdull; and two brothers, Robert and Huber Pepple.

Visitation will be Saturday, November 12, 2011. from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Burial will be at Eel River Cemetery near Churubusco.

Preferred memorials may be made to Provena Sacred Heart Home.

Casketbearers will be Chad Ihrie, Troy Ihrie, Allison Ihrie, Tyler Ihrie, Weldon Cline and Tiffany Cline.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Janice Paul

GARRETT — Janice Gail (McCall) Paul, 73, of Garrett died Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, in the emergency room at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Paul

She was a 1956 graduate of Central High School in Fort Wayne.

She moved to Garrett from Fort Wayne in April 2008.

Mrs. Paul retired in 2004 from Symbol Mattress in Fort Wayne.

She was born June 30, 1938, in Fort Wayne to Robert Edward and Thelma A. (Baxter) McCall.

Surviving are a son, Gary Paul of Tampa, Fla.; three daughters, Debra Radliff of Colorado, Beverly Paul of Angola, and Renee Paul of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Beverly Wilkinson of Jacksonville, N.C., and Vera Caldwell of Garrett; and her companion, George Goffner of Garrett.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with Chaplain Karen Kosberg of Parkview Home Health and Hospice officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Lorraine Hines

AUBURN — Lorraine Hines, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. at the Auburn Presbyterian Church, corner of Jackson and 12th streets.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at a later date.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, at Feller & Clark Funeral home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and one hour prior the the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Auburn Presbyterian Church, Susan G. Koman for the Cure or the Alzheimer's Association.

A full obituary will appear in the Sunday edition.

STAR
NOVEMBER 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Jack Reidenbach: an honest, fair man

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

WAWAKA — Jack Edward Reidenbach was known by family, friends and those who had dealings with him as an honest and fair man.

He was a hard-working farmer who served in Noble County government as recorder, auditor and a member of the Noble County Council.

He was a Christian, a legendary disciplinarian, a Detroit Tigers fan and loved his family.

Reidenbach, 89, of Wawaka, died Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, but his legacy lives on through his family and those who knew him.

"Jack was a good man," said Louis Lash, who served for more than 30 years on the Indiana Farm Bureau board of directors with Reidenbach. Lash was president and Reidenbach was vice president. Lash recalled a time when former President Bill Clinton wanted to nationalize all the waterways.

Mr. Reidenbach

"Five of us, including Jack, got a petition together and helped stop it," he said. "Jack was well-known and well-liked in Elkhart Township, and that's why I asked him to serve on the board. He was an outstanding board member."

Phil Reidenbach described his father as a very principled man.

"He truly believed in the Golden Rule. I never witnessed him treat a single person any different than he would want to be treated," he said. His father farmed ground for other people on shares. "He always made sure to give them their fair share," said Phil Reidenbach.

Reidenbach was elected to the office of Noble County auditor and Noble County recorder over a 12-year period. He also served on the Noble County Council, and was an Elkhart Township trustee. He was one of the few Democrats who could get elected in Noble County and did not care about other people's politics while in office, but cared deeply while at the coffee shop, according to his son Phil.

"Many people can share the stories about coffee-shop politics and farming they had at the coffee shop with Dad," he said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jack Reidenbach takes a ride on his first farm tractor.

His son, John, said his father was jokingly nicknamed "Landslide Jack," because his elections to office were always close.

John remembered growing up on the farm, where Jack Reidenbach raised 600 to 700 acres of corn and soybeans and had a herd of about 30 Guernsey cows.

"Cows and work came first before breakfast. Work before play," said John.

Another task for the Reidenbach family without question was attending church on Sunday mornings. John said,

"Dad insisted we went to church together as a family, no question about it." Phil Reidenbach said. He added that his father never preached to anyone, but was the kind of man who made others want to follow Christ because of his actions.

He loved his four children and grandchildren.

"Mom and dad supported us in all of our school activities, and in 4-H," said John. The young grandchildren would end up on their grandfather's lap after a rib tickle, and then he would pretend to struggle lifting them to exaggerate their weight.

Reidenbach didn't physically punish his children for misbehaving.

"He never raised his voice or used unkind words. Dad only had to tell us that what we did had disappointed him. We never wanted to be a disappointment to Dad," said Phil.

Reidenbach helped his parents, Edward Clayton and Opha Reidenbach, on the farm while growing up.

"When dad started helping my grandfather, they farmed with a horse. When he got his first tractor while in high school, Dad thought he had the tiger by the tail on that thing," recalled John.

Jack and Mary Reidenbach enjoyed many winters together in Tavares, Fla., and loved fishing there. They belonged to the 500 Card Club in Noble County for 63 years. Jack was a member of the Noble County Gas and Steam Association, and an avid Detroit Tigers fan.

His wife preceded him in death on Nov. 1, 2007, after 63 years of marriage.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law; two sons and a daughter-in-law; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; a sister; and a brother.

"The entire family is very proud of the way our father, grandfather and great-grandfather lived his life," said Phil.

Lorraine Hines

AUBURN — Lorraine Hines, 84, of Auburn, died early Thursday morning November 10, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Lorraine was born June 24, 1927 in Newberry, Michigan, to the late Russell C. and Isabelle L. (Gunton) Pelletier. She spent her childhood years in Mount Pleasant Michigan and graduated from Mount Pleasant High School, she attended Central Michigan College in Mount Pleasant.

Mrs. Hines

While visiting relatives in Auburn and working at the Court Theater she met her future husband David B. Hines. They were married on July 18th 1948 in Auburn where they spent their married life. David preceded her in death on October 7, 1984.

Lorraine retired as office manager for Dr. John C. Harvey in Auburn. She was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church and the Ruth Circle. She was a member of the Eastern Star, American Legion Auxillary, and a former member of Tri Kappa. Lorraine was a volunteer for the Cancer Society for many years with the Reach to Recovery program, helping many women with their recovery from breast cancer and mastectomies. She was a very loving and giving woman who never hesitated to help anyone in need.

She enjoyed cooking, entertaining, gardening and her children and grandchildren. Lorraine is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Beecher D. and Gail (Martin) Hines of Garrett, her daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Michael Beebe of Auburn. Seven grandchildren, Ginger Leos of San Diego, California, Jody Geisinger (Lance Pepple) of Auburn, Nicholas (Jeri Ann) Hines of New York City, Rachel (Tim) Guenin of Auburn, Alison, Abigail and David Hines also of Auburn. Six great grandchildren, Brianna Leos, Jenna Myers, Marissa Myers, Anjelica Prince, Paige Hentzell and Timothy Bailey, four step great grandchildren, James, Rachael, Leah and Rebekah Guenin, several neices and nephews. And the loving staff of Miller's Merry Manor.

In addition to her parents and husband Lorraine was preceded in death by her sister Phyllis Wood, and her brother Duane Pelletier.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, November 19th at 11 a.m. at the Auburn Presbyterian Church, corner of Jackson and 12th streets with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetary at a later date.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday, November 18 at Feller and Clark Funeral home, 1860 S. Center St. Auburn, and one hour prior the the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Association or Susan G. Komen For the Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX; 75265-0309.

Marbelle Davis

HAMILTON — Marabelle (Kunce) Davis, 81, of Hamilton passed away November 12, 2011 at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn, where she had been a patient since late August. Mrs. Davis had suffered from diabetes for a number of years and from a heart attack in mid-August.

Mrs. Davis

Marabelle (Kunce) Davis was born September 23, 1930 in Fairfield Township of DeKalb County, Indiana near Helmer. She was the youngest of two children born to James H. and Lucile M. (Gardner) Kunce. Her paternal grandparents were George and Mercy Ellen (Van Pelt) Kunce and her maternal grandparents were William and Ella Mina (Weirich) Gardner.

Marabelle's father, James worked for the Wabash Railroad and moved several times during her early childhood. Marabelle attended her first year grade school in Helmer, then started second grade in Salem Center, Indiana. December 1937, she moved with her parents to Wolcottville, Indiana where she attended school through the third grade. She then moved with her parents to Hamilton where she graduated from Hamilton High School in 1949. Following high school, she worked at Clyde Weirich's Drug Store in Angola, Messenger's in Auburn and the Silver Lake Inn west of Angola. On August 31, 1957, at the home of her parents, she was united in marriage to George Wendell Davis, with Rev. William Chowning officiating. She was a homemaker and mother of two children. She professed her faith to God at the Hamilton United Methodist Church and was baptized under the ministry of Rev. Amos L. McGinnis.

She was preceded in death by an older sister, Opal June Kunce in 1926, her mother, Lucile in 1971, her father, James in 1977 and her husband, George in 2006. She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, James and Carol Davis of Hamilton, one daughter, Rosalie A. Davis of Grabill, one grandson, Benton H. Davis of Hamilton and a sister-in-law, Ruth E. Kunkel of Hamilton.

Viewing will be on Monday, November 14, 2011 at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Waterloo from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 pm. The funeral will be held at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo, on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in the South Scott Cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

STAR
NOVEMBER 13 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Irene Canzier

GARRETT — Irene A. Canzier, 90, Garrett, died at 5:15 a.m. Saturday, November 12, 2011 at Miller's Merry Manor, in Garrett.

Irene was born on November 8, 1921 in Kendallville to Michael and Sophia (Hatzitsoris) Canzier and they preceded her in death. She graduated from Indiana University - Bloomington, and was employed by the American Red Cross in Cleveland. She later joined her parents in owning and operating The Superior Drive-In in Garrett. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church - Fort Wayne and The Daughter's of Penelope - a fraternal and charitable organization. She was a former member of Tri Kappa Sorority.

She is survived by cousins in Athens, Greece and the United States and many friends and neighbors.

Visitation will take place from 4-6 p.m. Monday, November 14, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home - Garrett and one hour prior to services at the church.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 110 E. Wallen Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825 with Father Paul Bebis officiating.

Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park, 6600 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Memorials are to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Miller's Merry Manor Activity Department or the Donor's choice.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Otis Lash

ANGOLA — Otis L. Lash, 93, of Angola passed away at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mr. Lash

He was born on Jan. 21, 1918, in Conde, S.D., to James and Emma (Woodard) Lash. He was member of Salem Center Presbyterian Church, and Orland American Legion Post 423. He was a retired farmer and carpenter. He married Eleanor V. Wood on Aug. 14, 1943, in Angola. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a lifetime resident of LaGrange County and Steuben County.

Survivors are his wife Eleanor; four sons, LeRoy and Patsy Lash of Hudson, Richard and Anna Lash of Pleasant Lake, Norman and Cindy Lash of Angola, and Roger Lash of Angola; one daughter, Adele Lash of Indianapolis; five grandchildren, Micheal Lash, Tina Lash Wolcott, Chad Lash, Jennifer Lash, and Phil Lash; eight great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; four sisters, Elaine Hartman of Hamilton, Carol Carpenter of Angola, Lorene DePew of Garrett, and LaVonne Fulk of Auburn; and two brothers, Earl and Gerald, both of Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Rhoda Hedglin and Ione June Lash, and a brother, Ormond Lash.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home. Pastor Bill Hambright will officiate and burial will be at a later date at Circle Cemetery.

Calling will be on Tuesday from 4-7 p.m.

Memorials are to Salem Center Presbyterian Church. Condolences may be sent to www.dalejohnsonfh.com

Henry Hill Sr.

AUBURN —Henry C. Hill Sr., 74, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. Hill was a self employed mechanic, retiring in 1990.

He was born June 4, 1937, in Cynthiana, Ky.

He married Patsy A. Congleton on Dec. 6, 1974, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, David A. Hill of Auburn, and Henry C. Hill Jr. of Auburn; and a granddaughter, Mercedes Hill.

He was preceded in death by his father, William H. Hill.

There are no services planned at this time.

A private service will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family, in care of Patsy Hill.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

STAR
NOVEMBER 15 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Mabel Bry

AUBURN — Mabel Mae Reeder Bry, 93, of Auburn died Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Bry was a homemaker. She also worked at the Auburn Rubber Co. for three years.

She was a member of the Concord United Methodist Church and the WSCS of the church. She was a member of the Home Demonstration Club for 45 years and past president of the Jackson Township Firemen's Auxiliary.

She was born Oct. 26, 1918, in DeKalb County to Charles P. Reeder Sr. and Cora V. (Boren) Reeder. She married Clarence "Sam" Bry on Dec. 21, 1938. He preceded her in death on Oct. 26, 2005.

Surviving are two sons, Clarence Bry Jr. of Urbana, Ohio, and Wayne Charles Bry of Pleasant Lake; a daughter, Dorothy J. Stahl of Ashley; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Reah Stebing of Auburn and Audrey Albright of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and three brothers, Charles P. Reeder Jr., Rollie W. Reeder and Robert E. Reeder.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will take place in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.feller&clark.com.

Sue Pearson

GARRETT — Sue Ann Pearson, age 81, of Garrett, Ind., died at 11:55 a.m. Monday, November 14, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Pearson

She was born June 7, 1930, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Harry I. and Alice C. (Ramey) Walton and they preceded her in death. She married George M. Pearson on April 25, 1953, in Garrett, Ind., and he died June 2, 1994.

Sue Ann was a secretary and teachers' aide at Venice High School in Venice, Fla., and with the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Schools, until retiring in 1992

She is a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett and the Professional Business Women of Garrett.

Sue Ann is survived by two daughters, Patti Weller of Garrett, Ind., and Leigh Ann Heltsley, Kansas, Ill.; and a sister, Kay McComb of Huntertown also survives. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Brian Weller and Lindsay Weller of Garrett, Ind., Janelle (Aaron) Johnson of Kansas, Ill., Kelly (Justin) Hefner of Republic, Mo., and Adam (Nikki) Heltsley of Kansas, Ill.; and five great-grandchildren, Brady Heltsley and Brayson Heltsley of Republic, Mo., Kiera Johnson and Shelby Johnson of Kansas, Ill., and Addison Heltsley of Kansas, Ill.

Sue Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Harry I. and Alice C. Walton; her husband, George M. Pearson; and a brother, Bob Walton.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. today, Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind., and from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, November 17, 2011, at the First Church of Christ in Garrett, Ind.

Services will take place at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 17, 2011, at the First Church of Christ in Garrett, Ind., with Brother Bud Owen and Brother Larry Owen officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, Ind.

Memorials are to the First Church of Christ at Garrett, Ind.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Otis Lash

ANGOLA — Otis L. Lash, 93, of Angola passed away at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mr. Lash

He was born on Jan. 21, 1918, in Conde, S.D., to James and Emma (Woodard) Lash. He was member of Salem Center Presbyterian Church, and Orland American Legion Post 423. He was a retired farmer and carpenter. He married Eleanor V. Wood on Aug. 14, 1943, in Angola. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a lifetime resident of LaGrange County and Steuben County.

Survivors are his wife Eleanor; four sons, LeRoy and Patsy Lash of Hudson, Richard and Anna Lash of Pleasant Lake, Norman and Cindy Lash of Angola, and Roger Lash of Angola; one daughter, Adele Lash of Indianapolis; five grandchildren, Micheal Lash, Tina Lash Wolcott, Chad Lash, Jennifer Lash, and Phil Lash; eight great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; four sisters, Elaine Hartman of Hamilton, Carol Carpenter of Angola, Lorene DePew of Garrett, and LaVonne Foulk of Auburn; and two brothers, Earl and Gerald, both of Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Rhoda Hedglin and Ione June Lash, and a brother, Ormond Lash.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson. Pastor Bill Hambright will officiate and burial will be at a later date at Circle Cemetery.

Calling will be on Tuesday from 4-7 p.m.

Memorials are to Salem Center Presbyterian Church. Condolences may be sent to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Ruby Gruver

EDGERTON, Ohio — Ruby B. Gruver, 94, of Edgerton died Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, in her home after a brief illness.

Mrs. Gruver

Mrs. Gruver and her husband operated Gruver's IGA for 17 years. She then worked for Day's Furniture and then for the Edgerton V&S Hardware.

She was a member of the Edgerton United Methodist Church, where she was a longtime Sunday school teacher and a member of the Pearl Circle.

In 1994, she and her husband, Don, were named citizens of the year in Edgerton.

She was born on April 11, 1917, near Hicksville, Ohio, to Frank and Ethel (Green) Obendorf. She married Donald L. Gruver Sr., on Feb. 26, 1939, in Newville, Ind., and he preceded her in death on Oct. 5, 2006.

Surviving are a son, Donald (Spring Benjamin) Gruver Jr. of Bryan; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Allen "Pat" (Marilyn) Obendorf of Montpelier and Richard (Wink) Obendorf, of Butler, Ind.; and a sister, Helen Whitman, of Auburn, Ind.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Marilyn Madoux, and a son, William Gruver.

Visitation will from 4-8 p.m. Friday in the Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Edgerton United Methodist Church with the Rev. R.L. Barnett, officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Memorials are to the Edgerton United Methodist Church or Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers Hospital Hospice.

To sign the online register or to send condolences, visit www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Lorraine Hines

AUBURN — Lorraine Hines, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Auburn Presbyterian Church, corner of Jackson and 12th streets, Auburn, with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at a later date.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at Feller Clark Funeral home, 1860 S. Center St. Auburn, and one hour prior the service at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, the Susan G. Komen For the Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, Texas 75265-0309 or the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

STAR

NOVEMBER 18 2011 Auburn, Indiana

John Frain

AUBURN — John S. Frain, 87, died Thursday morning at his home in Auburn surrounded by his family.

Mr. Frain

John was born June 29, 1924, in Garrett. His father, Andrew Frain, and his mother, Jennie (Wiseman) Crampton, have both passed away.

He was a signalman in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He served in the Philippines, China, Japan and New Guinea. John worked at Dana Corporation for 22 years, retiring on July 1, 1986.

He coached Little League and Pony League Baseball. He also coached Women's Softball for 15 years in Waterloo. He loved IU basketball and football, was a Tiger fan and he attended DeKalb High School sports activities until his health wouldn't allow him anymore. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed camping, mushroom hunting, dancing and playing cards.

He was a Gold lifetime member of the Auburn Moose Lodge #566 and the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

John married Freida Hufnagle on August 1, 1947, in Garrett, Ind., and she survives.

He is also survived by two daughters and a son, Trudy Kay (Jerry) Webb of Butler, Dennis Dean (Pat) Frain of Churubusco and Donna Jean Frain of Fort Wayne; two half sisters, Bonnie Bilski of Rockford, Michigan, and Sharon Cunningham of Chesterton; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Darrin Webb; a sister, Josephine Creager; and four brothers, Wilber, Harvey, Elroy and Chalmer Frain.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, November 21, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, Ind. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Darrin Webb Scholarship fund or the DeKalb High School Athletic Assoc.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Payton Manning Children's Hospital, Indianapolis, IN.

Eileen Bortner

AUBURN — Eileen M. Bortner, 73, died Friday, November 18, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Bortner

Mrs. Bortner worked for Blackwell's Department Store and Lincoln National/ Wells Fargo Bank in New Haven, Cumberland Bank and Fort Campbell Credit Union in Bowling Green, Ky.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. She was also a member of the Lullaby Club, Tuesday at Ten Knitting Club, Just For Fun Group, Red Hats, OWLS, and Beta Sigma Phi International.

She loved shopping, bowling, square dancing, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

She was born March 14, 1938, in New Bremen, Ohio, to Adrian and Helen (Brewer) Greber.

She married Jack W. Bortner of June 24, 1989, in Churubusco, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters, Nanette (Lilie) Isenbarger and her husband Robert of New Haven, and Susan (Lilie) Gallmeyer and her husband Byron of Hoagland; a stepdaughter and her husband, Lesa and Randal Wilke of Clinton, Ohio; a stepson and his wife, Mitchel and Laura Bortner of Holland, Michigan; six grandchildren, Mark Isenbarger, Brian Isenbarger, Matthew Gallmeyer, Kristen Gallmeyer, Rachel Gallmeyer, and Audrey Bortner; and a sister, Jane Egbert of Anna, Ohio.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, November 21, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service Monday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church or Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Charles Elser

ALBION — Charles William Elser, age 82, died on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 11:53 a.m. at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Elser

He was born on November 19, 1928, in York Township, Noble County, Indiana, and was the son of Charles M. and Cleone (Reidenbach) Elser.

A lifetime Noble County resident, he graduated from Albion-Jefferson High School in the class of 1946.

He married Marjorie Parker on November 13, 1954, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion.

Mr. Elser was a self-employed carpenter, and was the instructor for the building trades department for Central Noble High School.

He served his country as a sergeant in the United States Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

He was very active in the Albion community, serving on the town of Albion Planning Commission and Zoning Boards, and on the Albion Township Advisory Board for 32 years. He was a 50-year member of the Albion Masonic Lodge F & AM #97, the Scottish Rite in Fort Wayne, the Albion American Legion Post #246 and a member of Asbury United Methodist Church.

He enjoyed Purdue basketball, fishing, carpentry and most of all spending time with his grandkids and his family.

Survivng are his wife of 57 years, Marjorie Elser of Albion; his children, Stan (Tammy) Elser of Indianapolis, Leisa (Luther) Patrick of Fort Wayne, Brian (Susan) Elser of Indianapolis and Laura (Matt) Keister of Avilla; two brothers, Richard "Brent" (Roberta) Elser of Albion and James (Ann) Elser of Ligonier; two sisters, Elizabeth Shellman of Albion, Helen (Robert) Coil of Wolf Lake, and two sisters-in-law, Peggy Elser of Albion and Pat Frymier of Auburn.

He was Grandpa to nine grandchildren, Simon Elser, Sarah Elser, Macey Elser, David Elser, Benjamin Elser, Abbey Keister, Logan Keister, Claire Keister and Gabe Keister.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Raymond and Harold Elser; a brother-in-law, Robert Shellman; a half-brother, Burnell Elser; and a half-sister, Voneta Bair.

Funeral services for Mr. Elser will be Monday, November 21, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion. The Rev. Bret Frymier will officiate. Burial will be at Sweet Cemetery in Albion. Albion American Legion Post #240 will conduct military graveside rites.

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel. Members of the Albion Masonic Lodge #97 will conduct a Masonic service at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening.

There will be an additional hour of calling before the funeral Monday at the church.

Memorials may be made to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Go to brazzellfuneralhome.com to send online condolences.

STAR
NOVEMBER 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Mahnesmith a runner, attorney 'who enjoyed life to the fullest'

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Kent Mahnesmith was known as a dedicated runner, gifted attorney, devoted husband, father and friend, who enjoyed his short life to the fullest.

Mahnesmith, of Rensselaer, died Oct. 30 in a four-wheeler accident. He was 44.

He was born Nov. 10, 1966 in Garrett, to Ed and Ann (Anthony) Mahnesmith.

Kent graduated from Angola High School in 1985. As a Hornet, Kent earned 10 varsity letters.

"He lived life to the fullest," Ed said. "Last year was my 39th year coaching track. I coached Kent. It was a thrill that most fathers never have. He wasn't all-America or a superstar. He won the sectional and regionals as a senior in track."

Instead, Kent was a determined runner, his father said. Kent still holds the school records in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter competitions at Angola.

Kent continued running after his prep days and ran marathons in Boston, New York and London. He trained with younger teens and ran with them. Kent also encouraged his nephew, Nicholas Lagemann, a runner at Prairie Heights High School.

"One of Kent's buddy's mothers ran the London Marathon with him for cancer," Ann said. "Kent enjoyed life. Ed was always telling him to go running, and Ed would follow in the car."

He graduated from the University of Indianapolis in 1989 and received his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1993. Ann said it was the perfect career choice for their son.

"I always told him when he was younger he liked to argue and should be a lawyer," Ann said.

On June 23, 1990, in Angola, Kent married Christine Marie Graft, his high school sweetheart, who survives.

"We dated since we were freshmen. On our first date, Nov. 20, we went to the Christmas formal dance," Chris said.

After a nine-year courtship through high school and the same college, the pair married.

"I've known him 30 years. He had a huge zest for life. He was highly regarded as an attorney. He had tons of friends and always gave 100 percent," Chris said. "He didn't live a long life, but he lived a full life."

Mr. Mahnesmith

Kent and Chris moved to Rensselaer in 1993 after he accepted a position to practice law with the former Dumas & Moriarity law firm. Kent became a successful attorney specializing in Medicaid law and became partner of Dumas, Weist, Mahnesmith & Wright in 2000.

In 2001, Kent and Chris were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Sarah Marie, who he was most proud of. His parents said Kent was a "great" dad and Sarah was one of the many joys of his life.

"They took a lot of trips, and Sarah went with them," Ann said. "Kent took her out to breakfast every Saturday morning."

"Sarah is doing well. I'm very blessed," Chris said. "Kent took her to the American Girl doll store in Chicago. He'd probably hang on the moon for her. He was very devoted to his daughter before anything else, and he was so very proud of her. His whole life changed when she was born."

Kent was a devoted Notre Dame fan, so much so, that Chris had a special Fighting Irish casket made for him. A Notre Dame hat was placed in the casket. His parents recalled how earlier this fall, Kent and several of his friends camped out in his parents' front yard and had a bonfire. They all watched a Notre Dame football game on a portable TV.

"He didn't live a long life, but he lived a full life."

Christine Mahnesmith
Wife of late Kent Mahnesmith

He also loved hunting, fishing, snow skiing, motorcycles and four-wheeling.

"He loved to hunt," Ed said. "Every year, the prosecutor, Kent, a judge and a lawyer went pheasant hunting in Iowa. I told him if they got in trouble they should be able to get out."

He was a member of the Elder Law Society of Indiana, Indiana State Bar Association, the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Dwenger Council and he served as attorney for numerous organizations throughout Jasper County.

"He enjoyed life to the fullest," Ed said. "He probably enjoyed life in 44 years more than someone who's 80 years old."

Kent is survived by his parents, his wife, Chris, and daughter, Sarah Marie, three sisters, Monica (Lance) Lagemann of LaGrange, Mandy Mahnesmith of Angola, and Missy (Larry) Williams of Bloomington, his parents, Edward and Ann Mahnesmith of Angola, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Memory Gardens of Rensselaer.

Memorials may be made to St. Augustine Catholic School and mailed to: 328 N. McKinley Ave., Rensselaer, IN 47978.

STAR
NOVEMBER 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Harriet Sommers

AUBURN — Harriet Sommers, 98, formerly of Auburn, died Saturday Nov. 19, 2011, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born Sept. 7, 1913, in Milan Center in Allen County to Charles E. and Mae W. (Tilbury) Stauffer.

She worked for Mutual Security Life Company for 20 years, retiring in 1987.

She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

She married Herman J. Sommers on Feb. 7, 1931, in Harlan and he died Oct. 30, 1960.

Surviving are a son, Michael H. Sommers and his wife, Jeanette, of Auburn; two daughters, Sally Feathers of Fort Worth, Texas and Carol M. Grogg of Auburn; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, four brothers, George Stauffer, Gail Stauffer, Richard Stauffer and Charles Stauffer, and three sisters, Jean Kohlhepp, Marion Akins and Helen McCoy.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 22, 2011, at Indian Village Church of God, Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to Indian Village Church of God or the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be left at www.fellerandclark.com.

Brian Likens

AUBURN — Brian Scott Likens, 53, of Auburn, died Saturday morning, Nov. 19, 2011. Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. There will be no services. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Sleek Sr.

ALTONA — Robert W. Sleek Sr., 79 of Altona, died on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 at his residence.

Mr. Sleek

He was born Feb. 20, 1932 in Garrett to the late Clarence "Dale" and Mary Esther Lucille (Snyder) Sleek.

Robert owned and operated Sleek's Service in Altona from 1970-2001. He had also worked for Rohm Chevrolet and Yoder Ford as a mechanic, and for the City of Garrett. He served in the U.S. Army during peacetime before the Korean conflict.

He was a member of the First Church of Christ and Garrett American Legion Post 178, and had been a member of the Altona Volunteer Fire Department.

Surviving are five daughters, Janet (Larry) Snyder of Stroh, Doris (Gary) Jarnagin of Indianapolis, Bonnie Bunn of Acworth, Ga., Judy (Jim) Parker of Stroh and Lynda (Jerry) Scheurich of Rome City; four sons, Robert W. Sleek Jr. of Pennsylvania, Bryan (Misty) Sleek of Auburn, Richard Ray of Stroh and Gaile (Mary) Ray of Hamilton; a sister, Sonia (Tom) Angel of Lexington, Mich.; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Sleek, on July 28, 1987; and his wife, Carol Sleek, on Aug. 16, 2010; two brothers, Clarence and Thomas Sleek; a son in-law, Thomas Bunn Sr.; a grandson, Troy Ray and a great-granddaughter, Emily Dingus.

The funeral service will be held Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 1 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56 Garrett, with Brother Bud Owen officiating. A military graveside service will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the March of Dimes

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Brian Likens

AUBURN — Brian Scott Likens, 53, of Auburn, died Saturday morning, Nov. 19, 2011.

He was born Aug. 2, 1958, in Auburn to Max and Ruth (Davis) Likens. His father has passed away and his mother survives in Auburn.

He was a 1976 graduate of DeKalb High School. He had worked as a stone and brick mason ever since high school. He learned his trade working with his father then went to work for Auburn Concrete. He was a supervisor with Auburn Concrete and had worked for them for over 25 years.

He married Anne E. Mitchener on Feb. 28, 1998, in Auburn and she died June 20, 2007.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Likens of Auburn; daughter, Kristi Likens of Auburn; a son, Brian C. Likens of Montpelier, Ohio; a stepdaughter, Jessica Ruiz and her husband, Tony, of Garrett; a stepson, Kellen Mitchener of Ashley; two grandchildren, Donovin Scott Harlan and Cooper James Harlan; four step-grandchildren, Kaleb Sammons, Kameron Ruiz, Anthony Mitchener and Hayden Mitchener; and two brothers, Mark Likens and his wife, Lori, of New Bremen, Ohio, and Marty Likens of Aurora, Colo.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. There will be no funeral services. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Preferred memorials are to Faith United Methodist Church or the donor's choice.

View a video tribute after Tuesday, or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

STAR
NOVEMBER 21 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Judy Collins

AUBURN — Judy Kay Collins, 59, died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Collins

She was born July 15, 1952, in Auburn to Louis James and Stella (Gibson) Howe. They have both passed away.

She worked at JCIM in Kendallville. She loved to play bingo and was an avid mushroom hunter.

Judy married Dennis Collins Sr. on June 4, 1983, in Auburn and he survives. Also surviving are three sons and two daughters, Kevin Teegardin, Jason Teegardin, Danielle Teegardin, Dennis Collins Jr. and LaCrisha Leins, all of Auburn; nine grandchildren; a sister and a brother, Glenna Prinzbach of Hinton, W.Va. and Charles (Penny) Howe of Butler; a half-brother, Billy Howe of Butler; and two half-sisters, Garnet Baughman of Auburn and Deloris of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Terry Howe; sister Marie Miller; half-brother, Louis Howe Jr.; and stepmother Harriett Howe.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. Calling is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Parkview North Oenology or Parkview Home Health and Hospice. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ruth Little

BUTLER — Ruth J. Little, 70, formerly of Butler, died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Little

She was born in Garrett on August 19, 1941 to Ora Dale and Gertrude I. (Ball) Smith Sr. Her mother has passed away, her father lives in Fremont.

She attended school at Fairfield Center and graduated from Ashley High School in 1959.

Ruth worked as a cook at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn for 17 years, retiring in 2006. She also was a babysitter and childcare provider for many hildren in Butler.

She was a member of the Corunna United Brethren hurch. She liked to make uilts, do needlework and ecorate cakes.

Ruth is survived by her ther, Ora Dale Smith Sr. f Fremont; two sons Don . (Kay) DeLong of Auburn nd Sam C. (Jeanie) eLong of Butler; two aughters, Wendy S. (Terry) pryn of Cecil, Ohio, and athy J (Michelle) Todd of appanee; 19 grandchildren; ight great-grandchildren; ne great-great-grandchild; ne brother, Alvin Smith of remont; two sisters Barbara irshey of Hudson and oris Ann (Linville) Ritchie f LaGrange; and two ormer daughters-in-law, ernice DeLong and Joyce eLong.

She was preceded in eath by her mother; usband Joseph Little in 999; a son, James D. elong; and a brother, O. ale Smith Jr.

Services will be at 11 m. Wednesday, Nov. 23, 011, at Feller and Clark uneral Home, 1860 S. enter St., Auburn. Burial is Butler Cemetery, Butler. alling is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. uesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be irected to the Cancer ociety of Allen County. To end condolences, visit ww.fellerandclark,com.

Edna Ritchie

KENDALLVILLE — Edna Isbell Ritchie, 83, of Kendallville died Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 5:15 a.m. in Lutheran Life Villages, Kendallville.

Mrs. Ritchie

Mrs. Ritchie moved to this area from Kentucky as a teenager.

She was the owner of Edna's Restaurant in Rome City for many years where she was known for her homemade chicken gravy and biscuits.

Edna attended the Full Gospel Revival Center in Rome City.

She was a member of the American Legion Post 381 Auxiliary in Rome City.

She was born October 5, 1928, in Garrett, Kentucky, to Denver and Gracie (Perkins) Skaggs. She was married to Merle "Steve" Isbell, Fred Stolte, and Armond Ritchie. They all preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, Jimmy Isbell of Walkerton; two grandchildren, Stevie Isbell of Colleyville, Texas, and Tyler Isbell of North Liberty; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Lillis Ritchie of Rome City and Barb Carson of Kendallville; a brother, Eugene Skaggs of Kendallville; and several nieces and nephews including Patricia Ann Randall of Kendallville.

She was also preceded in death by four sons, Jerome Isbell, David Isbell, Rocky Isbell, and Eddie Isbell; a sister, Alma Randol; and four brothers, Willie Skaggs, Ray "Jr." Skaggs, Marvin Skaggs, and Minnfee Skaggs.

Funeral services will be Saturday, November 26, 2011, at 11 a.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S. R. 9 North, Wolcottville with Pastor Wade Sturdivant officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

Calling is Friday, November 25, 2011, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

View a video tribute after Friday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Judith Tustison

BUTLER — Judith A. Tustison, 70, died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

She was born on April 4, 1941 in Fort Wayne to Russell and Dorothy (Clover) Tustison.

She was preceded in death by her father, Russell, and her mother and stepfather, Wilbur and Dorothy Logan, and two brothers.

Surviving are several cousins.

Funeral services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with calling one hour prior to services.

Burial will be in the Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Dale Bunn

SARDINIA, Ohio — Dale A. Bunn, 66, of Sardinia, Ohio, died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at Clermont Mercy Hospital.

Mr. Bunn taught health and science for 30 years at Eastern Junior High School. He also coached track and basketball for the school.

He was born Feb. 3, 1945, in Garrett, Ind., to Merle L. and Viola Mae (Oyer) Bunn. They preceded him in death.

Mr. Bunn was a member and elder of the Russellville Church of Christ.

Surviving are his wife, Janice; a daughter and her husband, Lindsey and Ryan Kroemer of Whiteland, Ind.; his sister and her husband, Velma and Raymond Souder of Avilla, Ind.; a sister-in-law, Dianne Bunn of Conyers, Ga.; a stepgranddaughter; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Keith Bunn and Gene Bunn, and by an aunt and uncle, Russ and Ruby Bunn.

Funeral services will be held at 8 p.m. Friday in the Russellville Church of Christ.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

Services will also be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at the First Church of Christ in Garrett, Ind.

Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Huntertown Cemetery in Huntertown, Ind.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to the Russellville Church of Christ, 114 S. Columbus, St., Russellville, OH 45168.

Meeker Funeral Home in Russellville is in charge of Ohio arrangements.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of Indiana arrangements.

Sign an online guestbook at www.meekerfuneralhome.com.

Kathryn David

ANGOLA — Kathryn P. Haverstock David, 96, died Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mrs. David

Mrs. David worked as a telephone operator for General Telephone for 15 years. She then went to work as a nurses' aide for Parkview Hospital for 13 years.

She was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

She was born May 8, 1915, in Lee, Ind., to Ray and Mary K. (Gilmore) Holman. She married Kenneth Haverstock in 1933 in Butler. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are three sons, Jerald Haverstock of Kentwood, Mich., Richard Haverstock of Allentown, Pa., and Robert Haverstock of Kentwood, Mich.; 10 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two sons, Charles Ray Haverstock and Howard Wayne Haverstock; two brothers, Kenneth Holman and Ross Holman; and a sister, Doris Hines.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Jack Smith officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service on Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Barbara Hoffmeyer

WATERLOO — Barbara J. Hoffmeyer, 83, of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Hoffmeyer worked as a secretary for the Dana Corp. in Auburn for 28 years, retiring in 1986.

She attended the Charity Christian Ministries in Waterloo.

She was born June 27, 1928, in Chicago to Herman and Anna (Zimmerman) Diederich. She married Herbert Hoffmeyer on March 15, 1947, in Waterloo. He died May 31, 2003.

Surviving are a sister, Jacqueline Swain on Cantonment, Fla.; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Delbert and Mary Lou Payton of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two sisters, Loretta Raub and Catherine Diederich; and a brother, Robert Diederich.

A graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna, with Pastor Sheridan Hall officiating.

Visitation will be from noon to 3 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Robert Doty

ASHLEY — Robert L. Doty, 79, passed away at 11:35 p.m. Wednesday, November 23, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Doty was born in Williams County, Ohio, on June 9, 1932, to LeRoy and Elizabeth (Kirby) Doty.

He was a retired farmer and worked for the Indiana State Highway Department for 13 years.

Mr. Doty was Korean War veteran serving in the U.S. Army.

He was a member of Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

He married Anna Mae Albertson on February 12, 1955, in Angola and she passed away on April 24, 2011.

He was preceded in death by his wife and three sisters, Ilene Hall, Lois Ludwick and Evelyn Doty.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Frank and Joyce Doty of Auburn; a daughter, Karen K. Doty of Auburn; two grandchildren, Mikalyn Doty and Wilson Doty; and a sister, Hazel Gearhart of Bryan, Ohio.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 30, at Independent Full Gospel Church, 1000 S. Gonser St., Ashley, with calling at the church on Tuesday, November 29, from 4-8 p.m.

Pastor Sam Weimer will officiate.

Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, with military graveside services by members of Butler American Legion Post 202.

Memorials are to the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Making her world a better place

Lucille Hardy never wanted anyone to suffer

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Lucile Hardy was one busy woman, helping anyone and everyone who needed it. But no matter how busy, she always had time for her family.

Hardy, 91, died at the home of her daughter on Oct. 17.

Born to Edgar and Bessie Barley, Hardy was a lifelong resident of Auburn. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1937 and married fellow Auburn resident Richard Eldon Hardy in 1940.

After attending International Business College in Fort Wayne, Mrs. Hardy had three children and became a stay-at-home mother. Only she didn't stay at home very often, said son Robert Hardy.

"She was pretty busy," he said. "I don't know how she did it all — but she did."

Robert Hardy said his mother was known for her charity work. From serving as a volunteer at the DeKalb County American Red Cross for more than 50 years to helping as a Girl Scout leader and working at the county's first-aid center and food pantry, if there was someone in need of helping, Mrs. Hardy was there.

"I don't think she was ever overwhelmed by anything," daughter Carol Ann Payton said. "She'd get calls in the middle of the night, and it never bothered her. She never wanted anyone to suffer — ever."

In addition to volunteering at the Red Cross, son Richard Hardy said, his mother served as the agency's director for six years. She retired at the age of 79.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lucille Hardy and her husband, Richard Eldon Hardy, pose for a photo for their church directory. Mrs. Hardy was a lifelong member of Auburn United Methodist Church, where she served on the church's mission commission, on the church board and taught Sunday School. Mrs. Hardy was known countywide for her charity work.

Her favorite part of the job was helping families through the DeKalb County Christmas Bureau, which was sponsored by the Red Cross, Robert Hardy said.

"When she worked out at the Christmas Bureau, they'd send people down from (my job), and they'd always come back saying they had a hard time keeping up with her," Robert Hardy said. "She had one speed — faster."

Other service groups Mrs. Hardy assisted include DeKalb County Focus on Health, DeKalb County Extension Homemakers, Auburn Women's Club and Auburn Order of the Eastern Star. She received the Jefferson Award for her public service in 1999 and was named DeKalb County Volunteer of the Year in 1998.

"When she was younger, about 12 or 13, she wanted to be a missionary in Africa," Robert Hardy said. "She never made it, but she worked to make her little corner of the world a better place, instead."

She didn't help only those in and around Auburn, either. Payton said her mother often put together tray favors for patients in the area. She would decorate the cards with poems or other embellishments and deliver them to the veterans' hospitals in Fort Wayne and Warren and to nursing homes in Auburn.

"She loved doing that for people who may not have been able to go home and visit their families on holidays," Payton said.

Mrs. Hardy also had plenty of time for her church, her children said.

A lifelong member of Auburn United Methodist church, she served on the church's mission commission and the church board, led Sunday School classes and was the Wesleyan Circle chairperson. She received the church's Special Recognition from United Methodist Women award for her dedication to the church.

"She was one of a kind," Richard Hardy said.

Through it all, Mrs. Hardy's children said, despite being busier than most, she never missed a baseball game, a band performance or any other of her children's — or grandchildren's — activities.

From her famous fried chicken dinners on Sunday to family shopping trips to Fort Wayne's Wolf & Dessauer, his mother always made time for family, Richard Hardy said.

"She was quite busy, but she was always there when we needed her," Robert Hardy said. "If there were more people like her, the world would be a better place."

Edna Spatt

FORT WAYNE — Edna I. Spatt, 88, of Fort Wayne, died Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was a homemaker, a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and a World War II Navy veteran.

Mrs. Spatt

She was born Feb. 9, 1923, in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. to the late Alonzo and Charlotte (Cook) Magee.

Surviving are five daughters, Madeline (John) Walburn of Auburn, Sandy (Chris) Brough of Fort Wayne, Linda (Creed) Cunningham of Brownsburg, Ind., Debra (Paul) Nielsen of Fort Wayne, and Sharon (Kevin) Zwick of Fort Wayne; two sons, Louie (Christine) Spatt of Fort Wayne, and Larry (Annette) Spatt of Fort Wayne; 27 grandchildren; and many great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents, were her husband, Louis Spatt, and 10 siblings.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 2120 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Home for Funerals, 6810 Old Trail Road, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to St. Patrick Catholic Church.

To leave online condolences, visit www.elzey-patterson-rodakfuneralhome.com.

Barbara Hoffmeyer

WATERLOO — Barbara J. Hoffmeyer, 83, of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Hoffmeyer worked as a secretary for the Dana Corp. in Auburn for 28 years, retiring in 1986.

She attended the Charity Christian Ministries in Waterloo.

She was born June 27, 1928, in Chicago to Herman and Anna (Zimmerman) Diederich. She married Herbert Hoffmeyer on March 15, 1947, in Waterloo. He died May 31, 2003.

Surviving are a sister, Jacqueline Swain on Cantonment, Fla.; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Delbert and Mary Lou Payton of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two sisters, Loretta Raub and Catherine Diederich; and a brother, Robert Diederich.

A graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna, with Pastor Sheridan Hall officiating.

Visitation will be from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Donna Bock

WATERLOO — Donna Jean Bock, 80, of Waterloo, died at 8:20 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was born April 25, 1931, in Waterloo to Byron L. and Malinda C. (Mann) Johnson and they preceded her in death.

Mrs. Bock

She married Robert W. Bock on July 13, 1953, in Garrett. He also preceded her in death.

She worked as an assembler for the Auburn Rubber Company for three years, and was a homemaker.

Donna was a member of New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo, the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary, and the Waterloo VFW.

Donna is survived by two sons, Timothy Bock of DeBerry, Texas and Dusty Bock of Waterloo; three daughters, Sharmon Hartman and Bobbie Crager, both of Kendallville, and Tonoa McLain of Hudson; 17 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Harold Johnson, of Garrett; and a sister, Thelma Acker of Auburn.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by a son, Kim DeWayne Bock; two sisters, Matilda Wooley and Dessie Wilson; four brothers, Ross, Albert, Charles and James Johnson; and two grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Services will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home with Pastor Ralph Deihl officiating.

Burial will take place at 2:30 p.m. Friday in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials are to the family.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Donald Leazier Jr.

ELMIRA, Mich. — Donald E. Leazier Jr., 77, a resident of Elmira, Mich., and formerly of the Fort Wayne area, died Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, at the home of his daughter in rural DeKalb County.

There will be a military presentation by the U. S. Navy and the American Legion at 5 p. m. Wednesday at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home, Churubusco.

Calling will be at the funeral home on Wednesday from 1-5 p. m.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Patricia VanLeuven

AUBURN — Patricia E. VanLeuven, 58, of Auburn, died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at Saint Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., and one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Dennille Hippenhammer

AUBURN — Dennille D. Hippenhammer, 70, of Auburn and formerly of Ligonier, died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Hippenhammer worked for Tower Awards in Topeka for 17 years, retiring in December of 2006.

She was born Dec. 4, 1940, in Auburn to Henry F. and Mary E. (Glass) Donley. They both preceded her in death.

She married Russell D. Hippenhammer on Nov. 28, 1957, in Avilla. He died in 2001.

Surviving are a son, Russell D. Hippenhammer of Kendallville; a daughter, Rita D. Hippenhammer of Elkhart; and four sisters and their spouses, Stella and Roger Holiday, Marjorie and Lamar Ruhl of Mission, Texas, Sheila Jones of Rome City, and Eileen and Wesley Haines of Kendallville.

There will be no services conducted.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or the Cancer Center.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Ricky Terry

WATERLOO — Ricky L. "Huck" Terry, 50, of Waterloo, Ind., died Monday, November 28, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Terry

In 1977, he moved from Stroh, Ind., to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was a resident of Fort Wayne Developmental Center until moving to Waterloo in 2006.

Huck was a very loving son, brother, uncle, and friend. He loved his family, music and lawn mowers.

Huck was born on August 26, 1961, in LaGrange, Ind., to Randall and JoAnn (Haston) Terry. They both preceded him in death.

He is survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Regina and Jody Sizemore of LaGrange, Ind.; five brothers and four sisters-in-law, Roger Haston of Stroh, Ind., Randy and Karen Terry of Bowling Green, Ky., Robbie and Paula Terry and Rodney and Marilyn Terry, all of LaGrange, Ind., and Steven and Joey Ritchie of Angola, Ind.; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 5 p.m. at Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St., LaGrange, Ind., with the Rev. Willie Collins officiating.

Visitation will be on Thursday from 1 p.m. until the service time at the funeral home.

Burial will be at a later date at Brushy Chapel Cemetery in rural LaGrange, Ind.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Patricia VanLeuven

AUBURN — Patricia E. VanLeuven, 58, of Auburn, died Saturday, November 26, 2011, at Saint Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born September 22, 1953, in Newark, Ohio.

She was a member of New Beginning Church in Fort Wayne.

Survivors include her husband, Paul VanLeuven of Auburn; sons, Jonathan W. Wenning of Auburn and Jason M. Wenning of Celina, Ohio; her parents, Donald and Virginia Maharg of Celina; a granddaughter, Kayla Wenning; a great-granddaughter, Kinzie Doub; her brothers, Donald Maharg Jr. of Celina, Ohio, Richard Maharg of Celina, Ohio and Michael Maharg of Celina, Ohio; and her sisters, Brenda Stammen of Celina, Ohio, Barb Stallings of Florence, Ky., and Dorothy Buschur of Portland, Ind.

She was preceded in death by a brother, James Maharg.

Funeral services are Friday at 2 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St,, Auburn.

Visitation will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and also one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

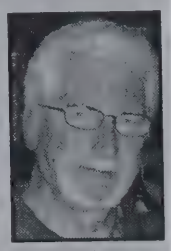
Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinningtonmccomb.com.

James Teders

ANGOLA — James W. "Jim" Teders suddenly passed away on Sunday, November 27, 2011, at 10:33 a.m. at Jewish Hospital in Shepherdsville, Kentucky, while vacationing.


Mr. Teders

Jim was born on June 9, 1947, to Paul W. Teders and Eleanor (Marti) Harding. He attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Garrett High School, graduating in 1965. He then enlisted in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969, serving in Vietnam.

He grew up in Garrett and moved to Angola four years ago, coming from Alaska where he had lived since 1977. On February 19, 2001, he married Mary Forister in Fairbanks, Alaska. She survives in Angola.

Jim retired from the FAA as an air traffic controller, having worked from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. He received his pilot's license and was a 6 ton commercial boat captain.

He was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 178, the VFW Post 1892, and the Disabled American Vets.

He was a member of the Moose Lodge in Fremont and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #4341 in Crystal City, Missouri. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, traveler, and this past summer had taken up golf.

Jim leaves behind his loving wife, Mary; his adult children, Ed and Rayme Teders, Carla Applebee, and Tom and Jennifer Teders; his stepdaughters, Jennifer and Corey O'Meara and Melissa and Rick Duke; his wonderful grandchildren, Lily, Aydan, Lauren, Nile and Olivia Teders, Kyla and Chase Duke, and Craden and Porter O'Meara; his brothers, Gene (Leslie) Teders, Jerry (Mary) Teders and Max (Jenny) Teders; his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Jim Curry, who became one of Jim's dearest friends; and his dear sweet mother, Eleanor Harding, and his stepfather, Robert Harding of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Teders.

Visitation for Mr. Teders will be on Thursday evening from 5 to 8 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel.

Funeral services for Mr. Teders will be on Friday, December 2, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Tom Novy will officiate.

Cremation will take place and burial will be at a later date at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 43, 1610 N. Peters St., Garrett, IN 46738.

Go to brazzellfuneralhome.com to send online condolences.

Timothy Colbart

AUBURN — Timothy C. Colbart, 70, passed away Monday, Nov. 28, 2011.

Mr. Colbart was co-owner of Classic City Cakes in Auburn for 31 years.

He was U.S. Navy veteran.

He married Linda M. Phillips on Dec. 16, 1961, in Hickory Creek, N.C. She survives

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Timothy Colbart, on January 20, 1965.

Surviving with his wife, Linda, are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Brett T. Colbart of Auburn and Douglas J. and Stacy Colbart of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and four grandchildren, Damon, MiKayla, Aidan and Ryan.

Private services will be held.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to www.dalejohnsonfh.com.

Betty Oser

AUBURN — Betty Jane Oser, 83, of Auburn died Monday, Nov. 21, 2011, at her daughter's home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, with the Msgr. John Kuzmich officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with a Wake service at 7:30 p.m. There will also be visitation from 9:30- 0:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to the ACD Museum, Alzheimer's Association or the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

A full obituary will appear in the Thursday edition.

Betty Oser

AUBURN — Betty Jane Oser, 83, of Auburn died Monday, November 21, 2011, at her daughter's home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mrs. Oser was a homemaker. Her greatest enjoyment was being surrounded by friends and family.

Mrs. Oser

She was a member of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary; Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge in Angola; a life member of the ACD Museum in Auburn; and the National ACD Classic Car Club.

She was born April 7, 1928, in Fort Wayne, to Richard E. and Julia M. (Didion) Walker.

She married Leo M. "Bud" Oser on Nov. 27, 1962, in Tipton, Georgia. He preceded her in death on May 13, 2006.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, M. Dennis and Jean Oser of Fort Wayne, Steven R. and Lynette Oser of Broomfield, Colo., and Patrick M. and Deborah Oser of Ankeny, Iowa; three daughters and sons-in-law, Sally L. and William Schaab of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nancy A. Wyngaard of Madison, Wis., and Julia K. and Ben Watson of West Branch, Mich.; a sister, Dorothy Weitz of Elkhart; 14 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a son, K. Michael Erb; a great-grandson, Tyler Nathan Toll; and a son-in-law, Michael Wyngaard.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, with the Msgr. John Kuzmich officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

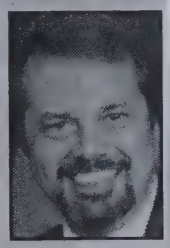
Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 2, 2011, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with a wake service being held at 7:30 p.m. There will also be visitation from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the ACD Museum, Alzheimer's Association or the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

James Hefty

AUBURN — James L. Hefty, 62, of Auburn died Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Hefty

Jim was born October 1, 1949, in Auburn to Raymond and Dorothy (Cattell) Hefty. They both survive in Auburn.

He was an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance of Auburn for 34 years. He was also CEO of J.H. Environmental.

He was a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran.

Jim was a 1967 graduate of Auburn High School, a lifetime member of the Auburn American Legion Post 97, and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

Jim was actively involved in a number of community activities.

He married Carrie Ellen Hippensteel on December 9, 1984, in Lake Tahoe, Nev., and she survives.

He is also survived by four sons, Matthew (Chris) Franks of Auburn, Morgan (Becky) Hefty of Garrett, Myles (Jackie) Hefty of Auburn and Jamie Hefty of Indianapolis. There are seven grandchildren, Kylie Franks, Chloe Franks, Paxton Hefty, Calder Hefty, Dawson Hefty, Wyatt Hefty and Lucy Hefty. A sister, Joyce (Jack) Hefty Covell of Auburn and a brother Tom (Frankie) Hefty of Auburn, also survive.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Randy Stine officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. and also Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Disabled American Veterans, Quite Knights or DeKalb County Humane Society.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Jack Severyns

GROVELAND, Fla. — Jack L. Severyns, 70, died Nov. 18, 2011, at his home in Groveland due to heart-related issues.

Mr. Severyns had resided at Jimmerson Lake for 23 years prior to moving to Florida.

Mr. Severyns

He had been employed at Hendrickson Manufacturing Co. in Lyons, Ill., from 1959 until being transferred in 1983 to Hendrickson Suspension in Butler and Kendallville. He retired from a management position with Hendrickson in September 2006 with 47 years of service.

Mr. Severyns was a 1959 graduate of Taft High School in Chicago.

He was born Jan. 7, 1941, in Chicago to Leon James and Adella Augusta (Zinkel) Severyns. He married Judith Grace LeFils on June 15, 1963, in Chicago. She survives in Groveland.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Joan L. and Edward Bajda of Lombard, Ill., and Karen S. and Ken Carpenter of Bronson, Mich.; a son and daughter-in-law, James L. and Terri Severyns of Auburn; a sister, Pauline S. Brunke of Warrenville, Ill.; and 11 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Severyns was cremated. Cremation Choices in Minneola, Fla., is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

STAR
DECEMBER 2 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Lois Garman

WOLCOTTVILLE — Lois L. Garman, 64, of Wolcottville died Thursday, December 1, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

She was born in Kendallville on June 28, 1947, to Verl R. and Letha L. (Weisz) Provines. They have both passed away.

Lois was office manager at Helena Chemical Company in Craigville, Ind., for 18 years before retiring in 2008.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Wolcottville.

Lois married Thomas J. Garman on November 10, 1978 in Butler and he survives.

She is also survived by two daughters and a son, Amy Jo (Jody) Ewers of Wolcottville, Mitchell E. (Candy) Keller of Ossian, and Jennifer Rae (Kevin) Gray of Roanoke; a sister, Mary C. (Pat) Crow of Spencerville; and three grandchildren, Carter W. Gray, Addison J. Keller and Ethan M. Keller.

She was preceded in death by her parents and first husband, Cleo "Butch" Keller in 1977.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, December 5, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Northeastern Cancer Services of Fort Wayne or DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Donna Benner

AUBURN — Donna Jean Benner, 80, of Auburn died on Thursday, December 2, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

She was born October 15, 1931, in Auburn to R.D. and Eunice (Rufner) Parker. She married Gale W. Benner on October 15, 1949, in Auburn and he died in April 1998.

Donna had worked at Messenger Corporation in Auburn for nine years and then later owned and operated with her husband, Country Corner Crafts in Auburn in the early 1990s.

She was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church.

She is survived by three sons; Victor Gale Benner of Auburn, Bradford (Loretta) Benner of Columbia City and Michael (Catherine) Benner of Bloomington, Minn.; five granddaughters, April Hutchinson and Rachel and Melanie Benner, all of Littleton, Colo., Megan Benner of Auburn and Jordan Benner of Minneapolis, Minn.; two grandsons, Steven "Scooter" Benner of Denton, Texas, and Johnathon Benner of Minneapolis, Minn.; and two great-grandchildren of Littleton, Colo.

Also surviving are two sisters, Frankie Bennett of Largo, Fla., and Bobbie Hicks of Kendallville.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Roderick Benner; a brother, Fayette Parker; and two sisters, Nancy Panning and Dottie Perry.

A memorial service will be held in June when the flowers are in bloom.

Memorials are to Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home Activities Department.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Dale Goings

AUBURN — Dale E. Goings, 76, of Auburn died Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Services are at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling is 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Monday and one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center or Shop with a Cop.

Donna Frederick

AUBURN — Donna J. (Wappes) Fredrick, 49, of Auburn, died Friday December 2, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born on May 10, 1962, in Auburn, the daughter of Max and Erma (Muzzillo) Wappes.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School and enjoyed sewing and art.

She was employed at McDonald's in Auburn.

Survivors include her husband, Lanny Fredrick of Auburn; a son, Nathan Fredrick of Auburn; a daughter, Alyssa Fredrick of Auburn; a granddaughter, Naysha Fredrick of Auburn; her mother, Erma Wappes of Auburn; a brother Mark Wappes and his companion Dana Robbins of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Dennis Arnold of Auburn; and several nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Max Wappes.

Funeral service will be Tuesday 10:30 a.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service Tuesday.

Memorials are to the family.

To sign the online guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

Larry Ernest

AUBURN — Larry L. Ernest, 74, died Thursday, December 1, 2011, at his home in Auburn.

He was born December 30, 1939, in Auburn to Wilber and Bonnie (Jimison) Ernest. They have both passed away.

Larry worked for Auburn Gear for 46 years retiring in 2005.

He was a member of Birds Unlimited and UAW.

He married Karon Cartwright on January 27, 1968, in St. Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by a son, Shannon Ernest of Corunna; three grandchildren, Tonya Coleman, Sonya Coleman and David Ernest; a brother, Jim Ernest of Auburn; and a nephew and a niece, Jimmy Ernest of Warsaw and Lisa Ernest of Ashley.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, December 5, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 until 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to SPCA.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Charlie Elsner was 'a true teacher'

Albion native loved his family

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

ALBION — Loving husband, father, grandfather, carpenter, teacher, U.S. Air Force veteran and Albion town government and township official for more than 30 years Charles "Charlie" Elser lived a wonderful, fulfilling life.

"We lost a good man," said Pastor Brett Frymier of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion.

Mr. Elser, 82, died Nov. 17.

The 1946 graduate of Albion-Jefferson High School married the love of his life, Marjorie Parker, on Nov. 13, 1954, in the church. They raised four children and have nine grandchildren, including triplets.

"Dad was always proud of his kids. When he came in contact with someone he had not seen in a while, they had to hear about them. Then he would get started on the grandkids," said his daughter, Leisa Patrick. He liked to make phone calls to his kids to get caught up on whatever was going on their lives and would end the conversations with "Hey, love ya both" or "Love ya all."

Daughter-in-law Tammy Elser recalled the time Charlie and Marjorie volunteered to keep her 9-month-old triplets for a week. "When we came home from a trip to Arizona, Charlie had videotaped the kitchen table covered in empty, washed baby food jars," she said. "He couldn't believe that in a week, the triplets had eaten over 120 jars of baby food."

His son, Brian, remembered his father fixing his bike, so he could do his paper route, when he really needed to be doing other things. When he was older, Brian noticed how much his father was interested in his kids and grandkids.

"He was proud of us all," he said.

Mr. Elser used his carpentry skills to help his children with projects around their homes. He was known as a perfectionist. Son-in-law Matt Keister welcomed Charlie's help but sometimes wondered if anything was [illegible]

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Charles "Charlie" Elser and his wife, Majorie, are joined by their grandchildren in this family photo.

law would end up spending more time with the grandkids than on the house. He said he learned from Charlie there is joy in completing a job, but a whole lot more joy to be found on the journey there if time is taken to see it.

Daughter Laurie said her father built the stairway in her house and did the "yucky jobs" like taking the recycling materials, cleaning out the recycling bins and cleaning under their refrigerator.

"He came to my rescue lots and lots of times," she said.

Mr. Elser was the Central Noble High School building trades instructor and influenced the lives of hundreds of young people. Former student Scott Pounds remembered Mr. Elser making him redo and redo things until they were just right. When the class was putting the finishing touches on a building trades house, Mr. Elser would ask before he looked at it if it suited them. When he looked, it didn't suit him.

"Charlie always wanted perfection," said Pounds. "He taught us respect, and to never say we can't do [illegible] lot of people are educators, but he was a true teacher."

Patrick recalled how her father liked sharing stories about the kids in his building trades classes. Charlie was proud when any one of them pursued a building trade after high school.

Mr. Elser was a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1949, a 50-year member of the Albion Masonic Lodge F&AM No. 97 and Albion American Legion Post 246 and enjoyed Purdue basketball.

"Sometimes he would get so nervous listening to a close game, he would pace around the kitchen table," said Patrick.

The lifetime Noble County resident was active in the Albion community. He served on the Albion Plan Commission and Zoning Board and on the Albion Township Advisory Board for 32 years.

When his grandchildren were asked what they will remember about their grandfather, they mentioned the way he loved them. They said he did whatever he could to make them happy, adding, "He always told us that Grandma spoiled us too much, but the truth is he was just as much the culprit as she was."

Donna Fredrick

Mrs. Frederick

AUBURN — Donna J. (Wappes) Fredrick, 49, of Auburn, died Friday December 2, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born on May 10, 1962, in Auburn, the daughter of Max and Erma (Muzzillo) Wappes.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School and enjoyed sewing and art.

She was employed at McDonald's in Auburn.

Survivors include her husband, Lanny Fredrick of Auburn; a son, Nathan Fredrick of Auburn; a daughter, Alyssa Fredrick of Auburn; a granddaughter, Naysha Fredrick of Auburn; her mother, Erma Wappes of Auburn; a brother Mark Wappes and his companion Dana Robbins of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Dennis Arnold of Auburn; and several nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Max Wappes.

Funeral service will be Tuesday 10:30 a.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service Tuesday.

Memorials are to the family. To sign the online guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Lenora Schiffli

WATERLOO — Lenora M. Schiffli, 100, of Waterloo, died Saturday, Dec. 03, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Schiffli worked as a cook for the Country Charm Restaurant, Tuttle's Restaurant, and the Green Parrot in Waterloo.

Mrs. Schiffli

She was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo. She was also a member of the St. Michael's Rosary Society, St. Rose Study Club, and the Harvest House.

She was born Oct. 13, 1911, in Glandorf, Ohio, to Bernard and Martha (Morman) Warnecke.

She married Wilfred Schiffli on May 9, 1939, in the St. John's Catholic Church in Glandorf, Ohio. He died March 23, 1978.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Martha Conrad of Waterloo, Joan and Robert Langhals of Glandorf, Ohio, and Barbara Schiffli of Muncie; four sons and daughters-in-law, Charles and Judy Schiffli of Broken Arrow, Okla., Robert and Lora Schiffli of Waterloo, Larry and Genevia Schiffli of Waterloo, and Herman and Anna Schiffli of Waterloo; 19 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Margaret Siefker of Ottawa, Ohio, Mildred Vorst of Kalida, Ohio, and Rosemary Siefker of Ottawa, Ohio; and three sisters-in-law, Teresa Warnecke of Glandorf, Ohio, Helen Warnecke of Glandorf, Ohio, and Lucille Schiffli of Orland.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Marcella Recker; and five brothers, Lambert Warnecke, Rudolph Warnecke, Urban Warnecke, Elmer Warnecke, and Thomas Warnecke.

A mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the funeral mass. Father David Carkenord will be officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will also be from 5-8 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the rosary being recited at 5 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to St. Michael's Catholic Church restoration fund or masses.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Dale Goings

AUBURN — Dale E. Goings, 76, of Auburn, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Goings worked for the Eaton Corporation in Auburn for 30 years, retiring in 1999. He was also a lifetime farmer.

Mr. Goings

He attended the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and was a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Engine and Tractor Association.

He was born on July 11, 1935, in Paulding, Ohio, to Clarence and Laura (Keller) Goings.

He married Nettie Osbun on Oct. 2, 1966, in the Cedar Lake Church in Ashley. She died Aug. 25, 2007.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Patti Goings of Kendallville; two grandchildren, Nathan Terry and Taylar Knox; a brother and sister-in-law, DeWayne and Mary Ann Goings of Auburn; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Deloris and Dale Smith of Auburn, and Donna Greenfield of Auburn; and a brother-in-law and his spouse, Donald and Linda Osbun of Dunn, N.C.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, David Greenfield.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with visitation from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will be officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will also be from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the New Hope Christian Center or Shop with a Cop.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com

Zonia Jacquay

. RUSHVILLE — Zonia Sue Jacquay, 60, died Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, at her home in Rushville, surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Jacquay

She was born in New Martinsville, W.Va., on Feb. 1, 1949, to the late Calvin H. and Elizabeth Francis (Flinn) Hornbeck.

She retired in 1999 from Bohn Aluminum in Butler after 22 years there. She also worked in the Butler Library for six years and in the Butler Trustee's office.

She was a member of the Auburn American Legion Post 97 Ladies Auxiliary and the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Syracuse.

She was raised in the Methodist Church.

Sue married Mark B. Jacquay on June 1, 1991, in Hamilton, and he survives in Rushville.

She is also survived by three children, Angela Darlene (Ronald) Uber of Kingston, Tenn., Tammy Marie (Ellis) Conley of LaGrange, and Stephen Michael Casto of Rockport, W.Va.; four grandchildren, Joshua Phillip (Shayla) Uber, Cameron Matthew Uber, Kaitlin Nicole Uber, and Brittany Renee Conley; one great-grandson, Kristopher Haiden Whitehead Uber; and two brothers, Carlton Lee (Louise) Hornbeck of Reader, W.Va., and Richard Mallary (Kim) Hornbeck of Belpre, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two grandchildren, Natascha Elizabeth and Samuel Ray Francis.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. A graveside service will be held at a later date in Hamilton Cemetery, Hamilton.

Memorials can be directed to Children First Center in Auburn. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Norma Allen

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Norma Vallieu Allen, 84, died Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, at the Hospice and Community Care Center in Rock Hill.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., on Aug. 22, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Harold Vallieu and the late Hazel Vallieu. Her husband, Joe Crawford Allen, preceded her in death in 1997. Norma and Joe lived in Montpelier, Ohio, until 1973, when the family moved to South Carolina.

Norma was a founding member of the Montpelier Civic League and the Williams County Playhouse. She was a member of St. John's Methodist Church in Rock Hill, S.C., and the Rock Hill Country Club.

Norma will always be remembered for her kindness, generosity and nonjudgmental nature. Her home was often the gathering place for friends and family, and she went out of her way to ensure that everyone always felt welcome.

A devoted mother, Norma is survived by Chris Allen of Charlotte, N.C.; Dan Allen and his wife, Beachy, of High Point, N.C.; Joe Allen and his wife, Kathy, of Rock Hill, S.C.; Ann Allen Casey and her husband, David, of Rock Hill, S.C. She was also a loving grandmother and is survived by: Cacky Allen Higgins and her husband, Eamonn; Daniel Allen; David Casey and Joseph Casey. A sister, Ann Brown, lives in Butler, Ind.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's United Methodist Church in Rock Hill. In accordance with her wishes, she will be buried next to her husband in Riverside Cemetery in Montpelier, Ohio, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice & Community Care, PO Box 993, Rock Hill, SC 29731; St. John's Methodist Church, 321 S. Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29730; or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Greene Funeral Home Northwest Chapel in Rock Hill is assisting the family.

STAR
DECEMBER 6 2011 Auburn, Indiana

James Lemmon

HAMILTON — James E. Lemmon, 66 years, of Fort Wayne, passed away Saturday, December 3, 2011, in his residence.

James was born May 6, 1945, in Hamilton, Indiana ,to the late Clay and Mary (Huff) Lemmon.

He was a 1963 graduate of Hamilton High School.

Jim served in the United State Air Force during the Viet Nam War.

Jim had been a mail carrier in Des Moines, Iowa, for 12 years. He also worked for the Fort Wayne Newspapers, delivering the Journal Gazette. He worked as a shift supervisor for Kautex in Avilla, retiring in 1997 due to a disability.

Jim enjoyed golfing, watching television and spending time with his grandchildren.

Surviving are his three children, Ann (Mike) Smith of Butler, Missouri, Clay (Jenny) Lemmon of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Tarah (Allen) Souders of Fort Wayne, Indiana; eight grandchildren, Lisa, Garrett, Audrey, Nathan, Aliahna, Shaleigh, Trinity and Kyle; and one sister, Linda (Bill) Lindeman of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Louis; and three sisters, Luann, Sharon and Lucy.

Visitation for James E. Lemmon will be held Wednesday, December 7, 2011, from 5-8 p.m. in the Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, 3985 E. Church St., Hamilton, Indiana.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 8, 2011, in the funeral home with interment to follow in Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider contributions to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the online guest book may be signed at www.oberlinturnbull.com.

Suzanne Robbins

WARSAW — Suzanne Kay (Fuleki) Robbins, 68, of Warsaw died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at Mason Health and Rehabilitation Center in Warsaw.

Mrs. Robbins

She had moved to Warsaw 25 years ago from Hamilton.

Mrs. Robbins had been a hairdresser at Rainbow Beauty Salon in Angola, and had been employed at Messenger Corp. in Auburn.

She was a 1961 graduate of Ashley High School in Ashley and a graduate of Ravenscroft Beauty College.

Mrs. Robbins had been active in the Gold Wing Motorcycle Club and had participated in plays at the Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw. She was also involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and had been a Girl Scout leader.

She was born Jan. 29, 1943, in Auburn to Harold and Hazel (Creager) Franks. She married Glenn Robbins on Feb. 14, 1986, in Corunna. He survives in Warsaw.

Also surviving are a son, Ronald "Skip" (Barb) Fuleki Jr. of Warsaw; a daughter, Valerie (Scott) Ervin of Angola; two stepsons, David (Cindy) Robbins of Mentone and Glenn Robbins Jr. of Warsaw; two stepdaughters, Ginger (Jerry) Bennett of Warsaw and Tina (David) Bennett of Warsaw; six grandchildren; 13 stepgrandchildren; five great-grandchildren; four brothers, Larry (Susie) Franks of Finley, Ohio, Huburt (Linda) Franks of Albion, Norbert (Linda) Franks of Kendallville and Randy Franks of Ashley; two sisters, Yolonda (Steve) Lechleidner of Auburn and Tina (Dick) Smith of Ligonier; two sisters-in-law, Alma (Bob) Henson of Loogootee and JoAnne Darling of Sarasota, Fla.; and two brothers-in-law, Charles Robbins of Elkhart and Arnold Robbins of Lafayette.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Dennis Franks.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday at Titus Funeral Home, 2000 E. Sheridan St.,Warsaw.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home with one hour of visitation prior to the service.

Memorials are to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309 or go to ww5.komen.org.

Send online condolences to www.titusfuneralhome.com.

Max Gaff

BUTLER — Max E. Gaff 84, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at the Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gaff

Mr. Gaff was a retired farmer and had also retired from the Auburn Foundry after 17 years.

He was a graduate of Butler High School and a U.S. Army veteran.

Mr. Gaff was a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church in Butler, American Legion Post 202 in Butler, and the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

He was born in Troy Township on Oct. 19, 1927, to Elmer and Mildred (Teutsch) Gaff. He married Donnabelle Menzel on June 21, 1952, in Kendallville. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Sara Gaff of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathie and Mark Troder of Butler and Linda and Matthew Cape of Butler; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; his mother-in-law, Lucille Menzel of Paulding, Ohio; and a sister-in-law, Margaret Tope of Paulding, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, William F. Menzel, and two brothers-in-law, Lowell Tope and William J. Menzel.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery with military honors by Butler American Post 202.

Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given to the donor's choice or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Condolences and a video tribute may be viewed online at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Fremont woman was known for toughness, stressed self reliance

BY JENNIFER DECKER
jdecker@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Carol Lynn Haines (Gorman) stressed self-reliance, responsibility and was known for toughness.

Mrs. Haines died at her home Sept. 25 from complications of Lou Gehrig's disease. She was 72.

Mrs. Haines was born Dec. 17, 1938, to Joseph and Molly Teeter (Ditmars) in Hammond.

Her four sons were David Gorman (Kim Roudebush), Timothy Gorman and Todd Gorman (Constance Sparkman), all from Snow Lake, and Matthew Gorman of Big Otter Lake. She also had six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

She has a sister, Susan Kay Griesmann (Teeter) and a brother, Daniel Lee Teeter, both from Illinois and two brothers, Jerry and Patrick, who preceded her in death.

"She was her mother's Christmas carol," said Todd Gorman, one of her sons. "She was born the week before Christmas."

Todd recalled his mother's ALS was diagnosed four years ago, but she never let it conquer her.

"She lived a real independent life. She decreased so quickly. The disease rendered her unable to speak. She carried around a box she typed into," Todd said.

When she was a teenager, her father was killed in an accident. Mrs. Haines quit high school to help her family.

She met and married Franklin Gorman after the two were introduced on a blind date. They were married 25 years. Franklin worked 25 years for B&O Railroad as an engineer. He retired in 1996 and died in 1997.

Eventually, Mrs. Haines returned to school and earned her high school diploma right after her oldest son, David, graduated. Todd was in a serious accident, and his mother decided she wanted to become a nurse to help care for him and others.

Mrs. Haines was in her 40s when she graduated from Purdue University with a degree in nursing. She worked as a registered nurse in intensive care, first at Parkview Hospital, and eventually retired from working at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Haines

Mrs. Haines was a retired registered nurse, and she enjoyed being a substitute teacher after her retirement.

"She was tough. If you crossed her, she didn't have a problem with discipline," Todd said. "She was never at a loss for words."

She was an avid gardener, quilter and a huge sports fan, especially loving the Chicago Bears, Boston Celtics and Indiana University basketball. Earlier this year, one of her sons, David, took her to Indianapolis to take in a basketball game between the Celtics and Indiana Pacers. Because she was a gardener, Mrs. Haines often canned what she grew.

"She enjoyed it. She canned a lot. One of my favorites was her chili sauce. We made a batch in 2002," Todd said.

Faith was important to Mrs. Haines. She was heavily involved in the Garrett United Methodist Church when she attended services there. When she moved to Fremont, she became a dedicated member of the Fremont United Methodist Church.

"She had a strong network of friends (at the church)," Todd said and added his mother was also a member of the ladies' quilting group. "She sold her house and moved to Snow Lake in the mid-1990s. She lived on the lake for four or five years and moved to Fremont."

Todd said it's likely his mother was the state's first female Cub Scout leader.

"She decided to make it happen. She was never afraid of a challenge. She had a woodworking shop in her garage. She made an apparatus over the pontoon for the winter," Todd said. "She had a table saw. She'd change her own oil. She was used to being resourceful. She'd sew clothes."

His mother was happiest when she was around family or attending their sporting events.

"She was very strict and stern about responsibility. She had written a letter to President (Barack) Obama and had been adamant about sending it. She understood the difficulty of lower-income people, but was opposed to handouts. She thought it'd be a horrible thing to do," Todd said and added his mother always stressed the importance of self-reliance.

Griesmann, Mrs. Haines' sister, said despite an 11-year age difference between her and her older sister, the pair bonded when Griesmann was in middle school.

"I got close to my sister in middle school. I lived with her and and family for a summer. My all-time (impression) of her was of her inner strength to face (adversity)," Griesmann said. "I was 9 months old when my father died, and my sister became my caregiver."

Griesmann recalled she went with her sister and their family to Pokagon State Park one summer to camp. In turn, Griesmann helped care for her young nephews and even helped bathe some of the boys in tubs on the back of the car.

Eventually, Griesmann married and moved away to Colorado, but returned to the area in 1989.

"I got to spend more time with her. I was blessed to be a caregiver of her at the end of her life. She was a special lady," Griesmann said.

Memorials can be made to the Fremont United Methodist Church and the Garrett United Methodist Church.

STAR
DECEMBER 12 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Beverly Quance

AUBURN — Beverly J. Quance, 83, of Auburn died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, at North Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albion.

She was born Dec. 13, 1927, in Auburn. Her parents, Harold B. and Helen I. (Carter) Bolley, both preceded her in death.

Mrs. Quance

She was a graduate of Auburn High School, class of 1945.

She married Robert B. Quance on Aug. 16, 1947, in Auburn, and he preceded her in death.

Mrs. Quance was a clerk at the Allen County Courthouse for 20 years, retiring in 1984.

She was an active member and office volunteer of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Garth Coons of Wawaka; a son and daughter-in-law, Carter and Marty Quance of Warsaw; five grandchildren and their spouses, Aaron Quance, Melita and Cheryl Schwartz, Corban and Caitlin Quance, Lindsay and Justin Chaple, and Michelle and Ian Murphy; six great-grandchildren; and her stepmother, Melba Bolley of Mesa, Ariz.

A memorial service will take place at noon Saturday at the First United Methodist Church in Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will take place in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday prior to the service at the Church.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Human Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is handling arrangements.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.FellerandClark.com.

Ruth Peachey

KENDALLVILLE — Ruth Mae Peachey, age 92, of Kendallville, died on Sunday, December 11, 2011, at her daughter's residence in Kendallville.

Mrs. Peachey

Mrs. Peachey was born in Toledo, Ohio, on May 28, 1919, to the late John Anthony Friedel and Theresa Cecile (McCarthy) Friedel.

She married Maxwell LeRoy Peachey on February 20, 1941, in Auburn. Mr. Peachey preceded her in death on October 6, 2009.

Most recently, Ruth was a greeter at the Kendallville Walmart store. She was also a teachers' aide at East Noble High School as well as cafeteria worker. Later, she worked at Skogmos Department Store in Butler where she was the assistant store manager.

Ruth loved doing needlework and crocheting and spending time with her family.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Rosary Sodality in Kendallville.

Survivors include three daughters, Sharron A. Johnson (Richard L.) Johnson of Williamsburg, Virginia, Diane F. Peachey of Kendallville and Carol R. Peachey of Avilla; her grandchildren, Cory Renkenberger of Kendallville; Brandon G. Johnson of Danville, Indiana; Trenton M. Johnson of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Athena R. Barkett of Ashland, Massachusetts; and John Anthony "Tony" Renkenberger of Avilla; and her five great-grandchildren, Kyrie, Tate, Tahlia Johnson, and William and Benjamin Barkett.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers Harold, Ralph, and Paul Friedel.

Visitation will be Wednesday, December 14, 2011, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

There will be a vigil service with a rosary at 4 p.m. conducted by Father James Stroyle.

Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallvillem with visitation 30 minutes before the Mass begins.

Officiating the mass will be Fr. James.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to Provena Sacred Heart Home activity fund or the Rosary Sodality of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Send a condolence to the family or View a Video Tribute of Ruth by Wednesday at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Carolyn Stahl

KENDALLVILLE — Carolyn S. Stahl, 72, of Kendallville died Monday, December 12, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services are at 10 a.m. Friday December 16, 201 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

Calling is Thursday from 2-8 p.m.

Lillian Arcioni

AUBURN — Lillian W. Arcioni, 79, of Auburn, died Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Arcioni

Mrs. Arcioni was a cashier and meat cutter at Meijer in western Michigan before moving to Auburn. While residing in Auburn, she was an active volunteer for the Heimach Senior Center in Auburn.

She was an active member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born March 10, 1932, in Big Bay, Mich., to Louis and Bernice (Sibery) Allen. She married Louis Arcioni on Aug. 14, 1948, in Muskegon, Mich., and he died Feb. 17, 2008.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Frank L. and Patricia Arcioni of Battle Creek, Mich., and Louis R. and Annette Arcioni of Bradenton, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diane M. and Ernest Davis of Muskegon, Mich., and Anna M. and Mark Fox of Dayton, Ohio; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, James A. Arcioni; two brothers; and two sisters.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at noon Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Muskegon, Mich.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Heimach Senior Center in Auburn.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Carolyn Stahl

KENDALLVILLE — Carolyn S. Stahl, 72 of rural DeKalb County died at 3:45 p.m. on December 12th, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, with her family by her side. She was born at home on June 23, 1939, to the late Harry and Pauline (Sherwood) Hovarter.

Mrs. Stahl

Born and raised on the family farm, she attended West Richland, a two-room country school for grades 1 through 8. She was very intelligent and had leadership skills; and when in grades 6-8, if the primary grade teacher had to be gone for part of the day, Carolyn taught her four grades. This continued at the high school where she filled in for elementary teachers or the office secretary. She attended and graduated as valedictorian from Waterloo High in 1957. Her leadership and social skills resulted to being elected to various offices in high school groups: FHA, President 2; Y Teens, President 2 and Song Leader 4; Concession Store Manager, 3; Choral Ensemble, 3-4; Beta Club (predecessor of National Honor Society), Treasurer 3-4; and Co-Editor of Annual Staff, 4. She qualified for state contests in math and won numerous academic awards. She was proud being an alumna of Waterloo High and is the only classmate to have planned and attended every class reunion. Indeed, she was the Layout Editor of a booklet published in 1967 titled "Waterloo Alumni Album: 1879-1967."

Her principal urged her to go to college to become a teacher, which she'd always wanted to do, but young love won out over her scholarship, and on August 11, 1957, she married her handsome high school sweetheart, James W. Stahl. She became a supportive, loving wife and helped Jim run their farms, especially helping with field work, which she continued for years. She also worked, though young, as an executive secretary at Rieke's. Two years later she became PG, and the custom then was for an expectant mother to quit at 6 months, so she did.

Born unto this union were two daughters, Karen Sue in December of 1959, and Diane Kay in August of 1961. As a dedicated, loving mother she became very involved in what the girls were doing. At the elementary level, she volunteered as a Room Mother to help their teachers with activities, parties, holiday plays and events. She was also an officer of the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization.) In high school and college, she supported and attended their activities, be they sports, drama, academic awards, and music presentations and awards, both band and vocal. She was proud that both girls earned college degrees.

Carolyn was well-read and actively involved in music, church, and community affairs. She had a life-long interest in music, playing piano since age 5, and enjoying singing, as well. She pursued her interest in singing in high school, was a charter member of her church choir, sang in community choirs for Easter and Christmas concerts, including several years in Handel's "Messiah," sang in the Women's University Chorale while in college, and sang tenor in a female gospel quartet for 8 years. The quartet was invited to sing for inmates at Pendelton's State Penitentiary, and after getting clearance at all checkpoints, being locked in with the inmates was a bit unnerving, she said. She enjoyed going to live concerts or listening to CDs of country, southern gospel and classical instrumental music. Her song may have ended, but her melody lingers on.

She was very active in the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, where she was a former choir member, taught Sunday School and Bible School, and was MYF youth group sponsor for her church for many years. In addition, she was MYF sponsor for her sister church for 5 years. She served as the church's chair of the Outreach Mission Committee for several years and became a certified lay speaker for the North Indiana UM Conference, filling in for pastors. She and Jim personally donated the funds for building a new bedroom during the expansion of Goshen's Bashor Children's Home and dedicated the room in honor of their church.

She gave back to her community by serving on the board of the DeKalb County American Cancer Society for 8 years after winning her battle with cancer in 1982. She also drove patients to Fort Wayne for oncology treatments. She solicited funds for the new DeKalb High's band uniforms, and carried petitions to get direct dial phones for Corunna and Ashley patrons. She was a hard-working member of DeKalb's Cedar Creek Antique Tractor and Engine Club. She also was a member of the Model Home Extension Club, holding several offices, including President.

She turned her interest to politics, as well. When Dean Kruse first organized a Young Republicans group she and Jim joined and became actively involved. Carolyn worked in headquarters, doing whatever needed to be done. Soon she became Central Committee Secretary and did all kinds of tasks for the party locally, and served on the election boards at several State Conventions in Indianapolis. She has spoken personally to three U.S. Presidents and two Vice Presidents, and after receiving five invitations to Presidential Inaugurations, she and Jim did attend one and all the related festivities accompanying the event in Washington, D.C. She continued doing what she could for the GOP.

A gifted person, still wanting to be a teacher, she waited until her daughters were in school to enroll in college. She graduated with Highest Distinction with a Bachelor of Science degree from IUPU's Fort Wayne campus in 1974, and earned the same honor of her double Master's Degree in English and Counseling & Guidance from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1977. She was a Life Member of IU's Alumni Association. She taught English at McIntosh Junior High in Auburn and at the new DeKalb Middle School when it opened. She served as chairwoman of the English Department until she was appointed Director of Guidance the last 11 years before retiring. She served on several NCA (National Creditation Association) teams which evaluated other middle schools in Indiana. The teams consisted of educational professionals from other schools who used their expertise for their 3-4 days of evaluation.

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Carolyn always had a ready smile and an easy laugh, and was given to much encouragement and hospitality. She was respected by her colleagues and the numerous young people she influenced, many of whom maintained a friendship throughout her 30 years at school and even after she retired. Indeed, classmates, colleagues, neighbors, relatives and friends would come to her for counsel from the time she was a teen. She felt God had destined her to be a counselor as she led people into self-discovery be being good at asking people the right questions so they could find their own answers. She was a member of the National Guidance Association, the DeKalb Education Association, the Indiana State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, and the Indiana State Retired Teachers Association.

Mrs. Stahl had many varied interests, but she was basically an outdoors person. As a youngster she picked wild strawberries and black raspberries in the woods and fence rows. She got out in early spring to hunt morel mushrooms and enjoy the first glimpses of wild flowers. She was known for growing spectacular fruit, vegetable and flower gardens and sharing with family, neighbors and friends. She spent time cooking, canning and freezing her fruits and vegetables. She will be remembered as a dedicated homemaker and a talented seamstress who made lots of clothing for herself, her immediate family, and her other family members and friends. Known as the backbone of the family after her Mother died in 1983, and Bonnie, her sister-in-law, in 1984, she hosted large birthday dinners, family holiday gatherings and weekly summer potlucks at their summer cottage on Lake Gage.

Carolyn had a life-long interest in fun in the sun and water activities with her family as a child, and with her own family after she married. They usually rented a lake cottage with her brother, John's, family after school has started in September because farming was slow and more cottages were available. She and Jim had learned to water ski, but when Karen started school, September vacations ended, so they decided to buy one they could use when time permitted. They liked Lake Gage best of all the lakes where they had vacationed, as the water was clean and clear, and the lake was so beautiful. They found one they could afford and still own it today.

She was a beloved daughter to her parents, spending lots of time with them, and as her mother always said, "being her eyes." (Pauline was blinded by a brain tumor during her pregnancy for Carolyn.) She spoke to her mother daily on the telephone, and they came to the lake frequently, often staying over. She was a cherished daughter-in-law as well, and Jim's parents came up at least weekly, as did other family members from both sides.

Usually vacations were spent at the lake, swimming, boating, water skiing (they'd taught their elementary-aged girls and many relatives and friends to ski), fishing and playing all kinds of indoor and outdoor games, puzzles and cards with the girls plus playing Euchre with adults. She had a passion for Lake Gage and talking with people, so she enjoyed both during the time and cookouts spent with family, old friends and the many new friends she had made at the lake. She had stayed at the lake lots over the summer months, and after she and Jim retired, both had stayed 5-6 months. An avid reader, she could often be seen reading in the front lawn in chairs, at her picnic table, on the seawall, or in their pontoon. Lake friends would stop and visit. Because she was very involved, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Association for several terms, and chaired a committee which developed a packet for new residents to the lakes.

Memorable trips not at the lake were in 1976, the nation's Bicentennial, visiting historical spots in Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, their two trips to California to visit friends and family in the 1980s, their trip to Hawaii in 1995, and to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996 to attend the Olympics, and annual trips to visit Diane and her family in California after they moved there in 2002. During the fall and winter months, she became the family historian and wrote 14 different articles for the DeKalb County History Books published in 1987 and 2005. She wrote of her and Jim's forefathers from the present back to the time when they came to American in the 1700s. This took time, perseverance and research, which she was willing to do for the family's histories to be included in the publications.

Carolyn was a generous and loving grandmother, sister, and aunt, and such dear kind-hearted special friend to so many people. She was a loving and caring woman, loyal to her friends. When she knew someone was sick, she would make a special effort to send cards or visit. She loved watching her children's, grandchildren's or great-grandchildren's sports, dance and musical endeavors.

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She was also a loyal Bob Knight IU Basketball fan. She and Jim had season tickets for over 20 years and often shared or took family and friends to the games. After she'd held up a positive sign about Bobby, which was caught on TV at one of the games, she was surprised to get a phone call from him and later a personal birthday card, as well. They had earned enough points from their contributions to IU scholarships that they were able to buy tickets from the Varsity Club to many NCAA Regional and Big Ten games. These points also counted in the lottery draw for the NCAA Final Four games, and they were lucky enough to get tickets to many of these games. IU's tournament games took them to many cities and states, but the spark left for the Stahl's when Bobby left, though they continued their annual donation to the IU Foundation.

Being an inspiration to her family and friends will be missed, her smile and laugh will be greatly missed, but above all, her caring and everlasting bonding will be missed most. According to a long-time friend, "She was well read and very involved, but one whose sense of curiosity never left." She was truly a "people's person," who loved spending time with friends and family at Lake Gage. In 2010, health problems did not allow them to be at the lake, and she told many how very much she missed the lake and the many friends they had made there. While she will be sadly missed, we rejoice that she is healthy, happy and enjoying her reward in heaven.

(This personal memoir was written over the past few months by Carolyn. In

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respect of her wishes, her family has offered this for publication.)

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 54 years, James Stahl. Also surviving are two daughters, Karen Bruner of Auburn, and Diane (Chris) Calcaterra of Coto de Caza, Calif.; 7 grandchildren, Michelle Sowles (Rodney) Walker, of Columbia City, Brad (Sara) Sowles of Kendallville, Bryan Bruner of Auburn, Nick Calcaterra of Coto de Caza, Calif., and triplets, Andrew, Claire and Grant Calcaterra of Coto de Caza, Calif; 5 great-grandchildren, Kylee and Kenna Walker of Columbia City, and Gavin, Owen and Kallen Sowles of Kendallville; a brother, John (Barbara) Hovarter of Corunna; a brother-in-law, Tom L. Stahl of Waterloo; and a sister-in-law, Charlene Stahl of Auburn; and three nieces, Shari Gebert of Auburn, Lynette (Todd) Duval of Auburn, and Kelly (Steve) Snider of Auburn; and 2 nephews, John B. (Michelle) Stahl of Ashley; and Tom E. Stahl of Waterloo; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by all grandparents; aunts and uncles; her parents; her husband's parents, Clark and Edna (Bowman) Stahl; a sister-in-law, Bonnie Hovarter; a brother-in-law, John Stahl; and 3 good lake friends, Robert Kline, Lauerlie Prior and Jeff Finch.

Her friends and family were the great joys of her life, and her family invites you to celebrate her life at a visitation for family and friends on Thursday, December 15, from 2-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 Center St., Auburn.

Visitation will also be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, December 16, prior to the celebration of life service held at 10 a.m. at Feller & Clark with the Rev. Michael Halferty officiating. Burial will be in the Corunna Cemetery, S.R. 327.

Memorials may be given to the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, UMCOR, DeKalb's Chapter of the American Diabetes Association, or The American Association for Kidney Patients.

To view an online obituary, sign the guest book, or send condolences to the family, please visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Sandra Fugate

KENDALLVILLE — Sandra Fugate, age 60, of Kendallville died on Saturday, December 10, 2011, at her residence in Kendallville.

Mrs. Fugate

Mrs. Fugate was born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 27, 1951, to the late Thuren Richard Gentry, who died in 1994, and Dora (Campbell) Gentry Horton, who died in 2009.

Sandy started out working in the Chicago Public School System as a cafeteria manager for a few years. She also worked in a paint factory in Chicago with her cousin Phil Campbell. She mostly was a homemaker and caregiver to her children.

She loved to cook and she was the best cook in the family.

She also liked all kinds of music and music videos and she enjoyed going shopping with Serena.

Her closest friends were Sylvania Gentry of Braidwood, Illinois, and Lisa Rios and Jane Russell, both of Kendallville

Survivors include two daughters, Connie Fugate Mozena and Shayne "Buzzz" Mozena of Kendallville and Serena Carrier of Kendallville; four grandchildren, Kayla Wheeler, Serena Wheeler, and Natalee and Nathan Carrier, all of Kendallville; her brohter, Joseph and her best friend, Sylvania, Gentry of Braidwood, Illinois; her Sister, Lora Lee and Brett Gearhart of Butler; her nieces, Shelby Gentry and Taylor, Whitney and Lexi Gearhart; her nephews, Bobbie Joe Gentry and Richard Thuren Gentry; and her many cousins including, Joy-Carole Oravetz, Bethel Neace, Earl Campbell, Phil Campbell, Wanda Wallen and Evelyn Fugate.

She was also preceded in death by her aunt, Lora Fugate in 2009, and her uncle, Marion Campbell in 2010.

Graveside services and burial will be Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Rehobeth Cemetery near Albion. Officiating the service will be Pastor Scotty Ritchie from the Grace Christian Church in Kendallville.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Sandy by at www.hitefuneralhome.com

Ruby Whittington

AUBURN — Ruby M. Whittington, 88, of Auburn died Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Whittington had worked 40 years for Charleston Metal Products in Waterloo, retiring in 1990.

She was a member of County Line Church of God and in recent years attended the Christian Assembly of God Church in Butler.

She was born in Swan, Ind., on March 25, 1923, to Oscar and Marie (Wood) Christlieb. She married Linley Hawver on Sept.22, 1940, in Auburn and he died on April 17, 1981.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-aw, Don L. and Judith Hawver of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Roberta G. and Richard Sapp of Pleasant Lake; five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Martha Howey of Angola and Lula Bell Sutton of Orland.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three brothers Oscar "Buck" Christlieb, Martin Christlieb and Delbert Christlieb; and two sisters, Buelah Stayer and Mary Jane Schick.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Matthew Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Southern Care Hospice.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Grace Fansler

FREMONT — Grace Louise Fansler, 81, of Fremont, Ind., died Monday, December 12, 2011, at her Fremont home.

Mrs. Fansler

Mrs. Fansler had formerly worked at Q.C. Onics in Angola, Ind.

She was an active member of Jamestown Church at Fremont, Ind., and also an active member of the Steuben County Antique Tractor Association.

Mrs. Fansler loved all of her family very much.

She was born February 6, 1930, in Hillsdale County, Michigan to Garlyn and Lura (Seiple) Firestone. They preceded her in death.

She married Clayton Fansler on March 12, 1950, at Metz, Ind. He survives in Fremont.

Surviving with her husband are her children, Gary and Lisa Fansler of Auburn, Ind., Jay and Harriet Fansler of Angola, Ind., Jan and John Coarsey of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Tony and Pam Fansler of Rochester, Ind., Rick and Martha Fansler of Delta, Ohio, and Neal and Billie Fansler of Angola, Ind.; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Warren, Paul, Floyd and Lloyd Firestone; and three sisters, Esther Smith, Leora Weber and Opal Maucherman.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 15, 2011, at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, Ind., with the Rev. Paul Metzger officiating. Burial will be in Berg Cemetery in Montgomery, Michigan.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. today at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont.

Memorials are to Jamestown Church in Fremont.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Barbara Rowe

AUBURN — Barbara J. Bunch Rowe, 79, of Auburn died Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, at DeKalb Health in Auburn.

Mrs. Rowe

Born March 31, 1932, in Craigville, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence Wendell and Anna Louise Garton.

She had worked at Essex Wire in Auburn for 20 years and also at Renaissance in Auburn, retiring in 2001.

She was a member of Auburn Alliance Church.

Survivors include two sons, Keith Bunch of Snow Lake and Kent Bunch of Syracuse; two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Dan Pfister of Auburn and Katherine and Randy Rufner of Auburn; her grandchildren, Joel Pfister of Auburn, Jeremy (Kate) Pfister of Auburn, Anna (Mitchell) Schlatter of Fishers, Amanda (James) Holbrook of Auburn, Jordan Pfister of Fishers, Tyler Bunch of Naples, Fla., Travis Bunch of West Palm Beach, Fla., Shannon (Dan) Conners of Brownsburg and Stewart Rufner of Auburn; and her great-grandchildren, Kate Conners, Emma Conners, Sophia Pfister, Grace Pfister, Jane Pfister and Liam Schlatter.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Eldon Bunch in 1977; her second husband, Virgil Rowe in 2005; a grandson, Jacob Pfister; and a brother.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, with calling one hour prior, at Auburn Alliance Church, 805 Old Brick Road, Auburn. The Rev Shaun Dufault will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation also will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Auburn Alliance Church.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com

Lester Campbell

GARRETT — Lester M. Campbell, 88, of Garrett, died on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mr. Campbell

Mr. Campbell worked for the United States Postal Service as a clerk for 25 years before retiring in 1983.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, in the Battle of the Bulge, with the 14th Armor Division.

Mr. Campbell was a member of the Garrett American Legion, where he was a Past Post Commander and a member of the VFW.

He was born Jan. 4, 1923, in DeKalb County to George A. and Hazel F. (Peters) Campbell. He married Iris J. Bryan on Aug. 2, 1947, in Garrett, and she survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, David S. Campbell of Auburn; a daughter, Kathleen (Robert) Bond of Orland; a brother, Gaylord "Gus" Campbell of LaOtto; a sister, Uvonna Hensley of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Bernard and Maynard "Joe" Campbell.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. A military graveside burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Salvation Army or DeKalb County Humane Shelter

To send a condolence or to sign the online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

STAR
DECEMBER 16 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Officer shot; suspect killed

Predawn incidents shake Waterloo

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net
AND STAFF REPORTS

WATERLOO — Gunshots early Thursday morning left a Waterloo police officer wounded, one of his suspected attackers dead and a second suspect suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady, 47, was listed in serious condition at a Fort Wayne hospital after being shot in the face at approximately 3 a.m. Thursday in the area of Railroad and Center streets.

Three hours later and a short distance away, police officers shot two people suspected of being Brady's attackers. One of the suspects, Ralph Daniel Hardiek, 41, of Auburn, died from his wounds, according to Indiana State Police Sgt. Ron Galaviz.

Police officers fired their weapons at the pair after Hardiek pointed a handgun at officers behind a home in the 200 block of South Center Street, Galaviz said.

Brady

Hardiek

"My man is alive, and I'm hoping for a full recovery."

Jay Oberholtzer
Waterloo Marshal

•

The second suspect, Julie Marie King, 33 of Auburn, was taken to a hospital in critical condition with gunshot wounds. Police did not disclose where King is hospitalized. Galaviz said she remained critical Thursday night.

Police had been searching for Hardiek for the past week for a different reason.

He failed to appear in Noble Circuit Court at Albion on Dec. 8 for sentencing on a felony methamphetamine charge, and the judge issued a warrant for his arrest.

Hardiek reportedly was facing a sentence of 12 years in prison if he had been captured. Previous news reports listed him as a recent resident of Avilla and Angola.

Brady, of Pleasant Lake, became a Waterloo deputy marshal in March 1998.

His wife, Jan, is also a Waterloo deputy marshal.

Late Thursday afternoon, Galaviz said reports were "very optimistic" about prospects for Brady to recover from his wound.

"My man is alive, and I'm hoping for a full recovery," Waterloo Marshal Jay Oberholtzer said Thursday night.

He said Brady was in the critical care unit of the hospital after surgery to repair his wounds, especially in his jaw.

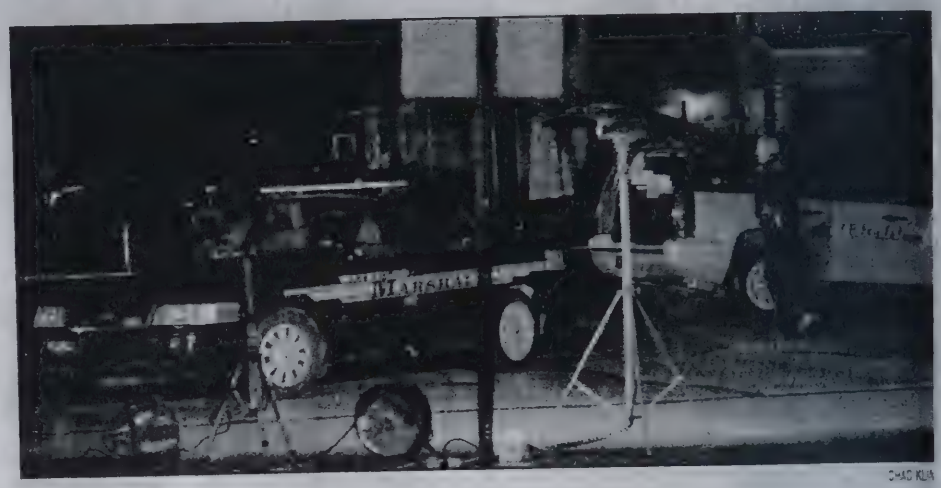
"He's able to respond to some verbal questions … shaking his head either yes or no," Oberholtzer said.

The bullet entered underneath Brady's left eye and exited near his right earlobe and jaw, the marshal said.

Oberholtzer called Brady an excellent officer, using terms including self-disciplined and professional to describe him.

"He really believes in doing

Con't on pg 387



CHAD KUHN

A deputy walks near a car where a Waterloo deputy marshal was shot in the face at approximately 3 a.m. Thursday near Railroad and Center streets, west of downtown Waterloo. Two suspects were shot by police after one of them allegedly pointed a firearm at officers at approximately 6:02 a.m. behind a home in the 200 block of South Center Street.

Cont from pg 386

SHOT: *Female suspect hit by multiple gunshots*

FROM PAGE A1

things and doing it right," Oberholtzer said. "He has an excellent way of dealing with the public and talking to people."

Police still are piecing together the circumstances that led up to Thursday's shooting incidents.

According to Indiana State Police detective Mark Heffelfinger and DeKalb County Prosecutor ClaraMary Winebrenner, the chain of events began sometime before 3 a.m. when a man and woman went to a residence on C.R. 35, just north of town, to seek assistance for a vehicle they said was stuck in a ditch.

Oberholtzer said a woman drove to the Shell service station in town to tell police officers about the pair seeking help, adding that something did not seem right about them.

The woman said they were walking toward Waterloo on C.R. 35, which becomes Center Street inside the town limits.

Deputy Marshal Zachary Moord saw the pair just north of U.S. 6, and they smiled and waved at him, but he lost sight of them, Oberholtzer said.

Brady then sent a radio message that he had found the man and woman at Railroad and Center streets, near the Amtrak station. Moord arrived less than a moment later to discover that Brady had been shot.

Galaviz said Brady's shift partner found the wounded officer "either partially in or around" his police vehicle.

Police from approximately 10 agencies throughout northeastern Indiana rushed to the scene to search for the suspects.

At 5:56 a.m., police radio traffic said someone had reported two people hiding under the rear deck of a home in the 200 block of South Center Street. At 6:02 a.m., police radio traffic said shots had been fired at that location.

Galaviz said officers responding to the rear of the home on Center Street found Hardick and King lying next to each other on the ground. He said the pair refused to comply with commands given by police, and police used a TASER stun gun in an attempt to get them to follow orders.

"At that point, the male displayed a firearm and pointed it at officers," Galaviz said.

Police then shot, hitting both suspects.

Galaviz said he did not know if Hardick fired his gun at the officers who found him behind the Center Street house. He also was not sure how many times police officers shot at the two suspects, but said it appeared to be multiple times.

According to police radio traffic, at 6:23 a.m. first responders radioed to DeKalb Health that they would be rushing to the hospital with a woman suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, mostly in the chest area.

At 6:27 a.m., the Auburn Fire Department was called to bring bolt cutters to the hospital emergency room to assist in removing handcuffs from King, so she could be treated more easily.

Investigators do not know which of the suspects shot Brady.

"In the future we hope to know that," Galaviz said late Thursday afternoon. Once Brady's health improves, he might be able to tell investigators who shot him, Galaviz said. He added that if King survives, she, too, would be interviewed about who shot Brady.

CHAD KLU

Indiana State Police Sgt. Ron Galaviz addresses reporters during a news conference at the Waterloo Marshal's Office following a shooting Thursday morning that injured a 13-year veteran of the Waterloo department.

'My heart just aches,' Waterloo official says

BY BOB CULP
bculp@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — When DeKalb County Council member Janet Ordway turned on the 6 a.m. news Thursday, it frightened her.

The longtime Waterloo resident saw a report that Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady had been shot in the face while on duty in the town at about 3 that morning.

Ordway remembered waking up a few hours earlier to police cars with sirens racing past her residence on South Wayne Street in Waterloo. Ordway assumed it was because of a bad accident or a house fire.

Surber

Instead, the rush was part of a search for Brady's attackers that included about 10 northeast Indiana police agencies. It ended when police shot two suspects, killing one of them, behind a home in the 200 block of South Center Street.

"I feared for the town," Ordway said. "All I could think about was how tragic this was for the town and for the officer's family. I was frightened for everyone."

Waterloo Marshal Jay Oberholtzer called Waterloo Town Council president Candi Surber at approximately 6 a.m. to tell her about the incident. She took hot coffee to the first responders.

"My heart just aches for Steve and Jan," Surber said about the Bradys.

Waterloo Councilman Nathan Diehl found out about the incident at 6:30 a.m. through a phone call from a friend.

Diehl said he noticed increased police traffic, and thought he heard gunshots. But, Diehl said he lives on a well-traveled street. It could have been anything.

"My heart goes out to Steve (Brady)," Diehl said. "I don't think I would have the guts to put my life on the line every day like he does in his job. Steve really cares about the town and its people. I look forward to him getting better."

For longtime town resident and councilman Bill Hubartt, a 3 a.m. phone call from his son, a Waterloo firefighter, alerted him to what was going on.

Hubartt said the shootings are a tragedy unlike anything he remembers occurring in Waterloo.

"This shows how dangerous police work really is," he said. "You just never know what's going to happen. This officer was doing his job, and look what happened. I don't ever remember a police officer ever being shot in Waterloo before."

Surber said she was stunned by the news, but said incidents like this show small-town Indiana is not immune to violence.

"This stuff hits all of us, unfortunately," Surber said. "The world is different."

DeKalb Central School Corp. Superintendent Sherry Grate issued a statement Thursday morning about how the incident affected school operations.

"Beginning early this morning, we were in constant communication with local law enforcement regarding the news of a shooting in Waterloo," Grate's statement said. "We were prepared to execute our emergency response protocols to protect our students. Information was promptly received indicating that law enforcement had secured the suspects. At that time it was determined that it was safe to conduct school on a normal schedule. DeKalb Central famili were informed of the situation through our Alert Now messagin system. At no time was there any evidence that any student safety was compromised."

Wayne Beerbower

GRABILL — Wayne A. Beerbower, 99, of Grabill, Ind., died Monday, December 12, 2011, at The Cedars in Leo surrounded by the love and care of family, friends and staff.

Mr. Beerbower

He was born on May 1, 1912, in Scipio Township, Allen County, Indiana, to A.P. and Eva Beerbower, who preceded him in death. He was raised on the family farm with seven brothers and sisters.

After graduation from Hicksville High School, Hicksville, Ohio, he began his work career at the Fort Wayne Post Office.

He married Irene Lake of Harlan, Indiana, on May 18, 1935. She also preceded him in death in 1995.

He later became plant manager of Fort Wayne Coca Cola bottling plant. In 1946, he and Irene purchased the Hi-Record Hatchery in Grabill and operated it until his retirement in 1982. He helped develop the broiler and egg industry in this area.

The family took many vacations in the United States. Wayne and Irene traveled extensively around the world, always meeting and learning about interesting people and cultures. Family and friends will miss Wayne's great stories, card games, snowmobile trips and fun at Oliver Lake.

He is survived by a son, Robert (Neva) Beerbower of Fort Wayne; daughters, Joanne Beerbower of Grabill; Mary (Mike) Smith of Corunna and Kathryn (Robert) Coon of Baton Rouge, La.; nine grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; a sister, Anna Mae Rediger of Auburn; brothers, Ray Beerbower and Russell (Nellie) Beerbower, both of Antwerp, Ohio; sisters-in-law, Alice Beerbower and Juanita Lake, both of Fort Wayne; a brother-in-law, Willard Green of Antwerp, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Opal Green; and brothers, Carlin, Guy and Owen Beerbower.

He was a member of Leo United Methodist Church; charter member of Cedar Creek Lions Club; Leo Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite. He was also a former board member of Parkview Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 17, 2011, at Leo United Methodist Church, Leo, Ind., with the Rev. David Heim officiating.

Visitation will be 1 hour before services at the church and also from 2-4 and 6-8 today, Friday, December 16, 2011, at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road.

Memorials may be directed to Leo United Methodist Church.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.hockemeyermillerfh.com.

STAR
DECEMBER 17 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Wounded deputy improving

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — A deputy police officer who was shot in the face early Thursday morning is improving at an area hospital, according to Waterloo Marshal Jay Oberholtzer.

Shortly after leaving the hospital early Friday evening, Oberholtzer said Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady was "a lot better than yesterday. I asked him if he was going to be in at 10 tonight to work. He actually started to laugh."

Brady remained in serious condition in an intensive care unit. He is on a ventilator and faces the prospect of surgery to help repair his jaw, Oberholtzer said.

"He was reacting to everything I said to him," Oberholtzer said. At one point, Brady gave him a "thumbs-up."

"Thank God, I say," Oberholtzer added.

Police believe either Ralph Hardiek, 47, or Julie King, 33, both of Auburn, shot Brady as he searched for people walking into town because their car was in a ditch. Waterloo Deputy Marshal Zachary Moord discovered a wounded Brady at approximately 3 a.m., just seconds after the shooting.

Brady

Investigators say the chain of events began sometime before 3 a.m. when a man and woman went to a house on C.R. 35, north of town, to seek assistance for a vehicle stuck in a ditch.

Friday, Indiana State Police reported that a Dodge Omni registered to Julie King had been found near the intersection of C.R. 35 and C.R. 10 north of Waterloo. The car was impounded and will be processed for evidence, a spokesman said.

Oberholtzer said a woman drove to the Shell service station in town to tell police officers about the pair seeking help, adding that something did not seem right about them. The woman said they were walking toward Waterloo on C.R. 35, which becomes Center Street inside the town limits.

Brady sent a radio message that he had found a man and woman at Railroad and Center streets, near the town's Amtrak station, moments before he was shot.

At 5:56 a.m., police found two people hiding under a deck behind a home in the 200 block of South Center Street. Police converged on the scene, and Hardiek and King refused to obey police commands. Hardiek was shocked with a

SEE WOUNDED, PAGE A6

Slain man was known safety risk

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

WOUNDED FEMALE *companion had a history with police.* SEE PAGE A2

AUBURN — Police knew Ralph Hardiek was dangerous as early as April.

Hardiek

When Avilla Town Marshal Glen Wills went to assist the Department of Child Services with an investigation April 29 in a mobile home park in Avilla, he called for a standard criminal history check when he found out Hardiek was inside the home. The report he received back categorized Hardiek as an "officer safety risk."

Wills called for — and received — backup from the Kendallville Police Department.

Thursday, Hardiek was shot and killed by police after pointing a handgun at officers in Waterloo.

The shooting of Hardiek, 47, and Julie King, 33, both of Auburn, in the backyard of a home in the 200 block of South Center Street in Waterloo ended a chain of events that began at 3 a.m., when, police believe, either King or Hardiek shot Waterloo

SEE RISK, PAGE A6

VOUNDED: *Brady called ideal third-shift officer*

OM PAGE A1

ASER stun gun, then oduced a handgun that he inted at officers. Police en fired, hitting both spects.

Hardiek was killed. King as transported to a hospital ith multiple gunshot ounds.

Brady joined the aterloo Police Department March 1998.

"I describe him as the eal third-shift officer," berholtzer said. "He's very ofessional."

According to Oberholtzer, rd-shift officers often have deal with the most cooperative of citizens d generally take more ople to jail than any other shift.

Oberholtzer said Brady has a knack of quickly evaluating and responding to any situation.

Brady is more than capable of talking down potentially violent situations, and is equally adept when there is no other choice than to take someone into custody by force. Perhaps most important of all, Brady knows when to use either approach.

"Steve's always had wisdom to approach the situation correctly," Oberholtzer said.

Brady is also cautious, and for that reason, Oberholtzer said he thinks things must have gone very wrong very quickly for him not to have responded Thursday morning.

Oberholtzer has a five-man department. With Moord off duty after the strain of Thursday's incident, and Brady and his wife, Deputy Marshal Jan Brady, off as well, Oberholtzer ended up working third shift Thursday night.

"I drove through that same intersection several times, trying to visualize what happened," Oberholtzer said. "It was ironic how quiet it was."

Oberholtzer said he heard that besides the gun Hardiek pointed at officers, more weapons were found at the scene, including a shotgun.

STAR
DECEMBER 17 2011 Auburn, Indiana

RISK: *Drank meth while talking to police officers*

FROM PAGE A1

Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady in the face.

Hardiek and King refused to obey police commands when officers found them at 6:02 a.m. When police shocked him with a TASER stun gun, Hardiek pointed a handgun at officers, who then fired at the pair.

Brady, 47, of Pleasant Lake, remained hospitalized Friday. King is also hospitalized.

Hardiek had no felony convictions in Indiana prior to his manufacturing methamphetamine charge. But he was no stranger to the criminal court system, having been convicted of three prior felonies according to court records.

• On July 25, 1989, he was sentenced to prison in Utah on a charge of mayhem, a second-degree felony. According to Utah criminal code 6-15-105, "Every person who unlawfully and intentionally deprives a human being of a member of his body, or disables or renders it useless, or who cuts out or disables the tongue, puts out an eye, or slits the nose, ear, or lip is guilty of mayhem."

• On Aug. 17, 1994, he was sentenced in Utah on a charge of aggravated possession of a dangerous weapon at a correctional facility.

• On Nov. 10, 2004, he was sentenced in Boonville County, Idaho, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

On April 29 in Avilla, Department of Child Services workers requested the assistance of the Avilla Police Department for a welfare check at a mobile home in the 900 block of Autumn Hills Drive in Avilla.

Wills and Kendallville Police Department Cpl. Doug Davis allegedly noticed the odor of burnt marijuana at the residence. According to Wills, police also observed items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine in plain view in the home. The occupants of the home were removed, and police obtained a search warrant.

Once the search warrant was obtained, police located an active methamphetamine lab and various items associated with the manufacture of the drug.

"He told us after the interview he was drinking meth … while he was talking to us," Wills said.

Asked if he considered Hardiek to be a physical threat at that time, Wills said, "Absolutely."

Hardiek was incarcerated in the Noble County Jail. He later pleaded guilty to the methamphetamine charge, with a plea deal in the case calling for 12 years in prison. Hardiek failed to show up for his sentencing Sept. 8 in Noble Circuit Court. A warrant had been issued for his arrest.

STAR
DECEMBER 11 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Wounded suspect had history with police

Convicted once in Noble County

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

Thursday's violent altercation with police in Waterloo wasn't Julie Marie Brand King's first run-in with the law. Nor was it her first association with someone known to be in the methamphetamine trade.

King remained hospitalized Friday after being shot by police multiple times behind a home in the 200 block of South Center Street Thursday morning.

The shooting ended a chain of events that began at 3 a.m. with either King or the man who was eventually killed beside her, Ralph Hardiek, shooting Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady in the face.

Hardiek and King refused to obey police commands when discovered at 6:02 a.m. When police deployed a TASER stun gun, Hardiek pointed a handgun at officers, who then fired at the pair.

Brady, 47, of Pleasant Lake, also remained hospitalized Friday.

Hardiek failed to appear in Noble Circuit Court at Albion on Dec. 8 for sentencing on a felony methamphetamine charge, and the judge issued a warrant for his arrest.

King, 33, of Auburn, had been arrested once in Noble County, and had been questioned in another case.

On April 20, 2010, King was detained after officers from multiple agencies served a high-risk Steuben County warrant on Thomas W. Hovis, 54, in the 800 West block of U.S. 6 in Noble County. King was found on the first floor of a home on the property, according to a detective with the Indiana Multi Agency Group Enforcement Drug Task Force.

King

The detective said King was living with Hovis at the house, and that she described their relationship as boyfriend and girlfriend.

"She was very uncooperative," the detective said. "She asked for a lawyer and wouldn't answer any questions."

Three meth labs were found in the home, as well as several guns, but none was located where King was found by police.

"She wasn't around it," the detective said. "He was taking all the blame." She was never charged in the case.

The Steuben County warrant for Hovis contained 11 charges, including manufacturing methamphetamine.

Hovis eventually was found hiding in a barn, up to his neck in a pit of manure, and taken into custody. According to Steuben County Sheriff Tim Troyer, Hovis is being held at his jail on a charge of possession of a firearm by a felon.

In a separate case, King was charged with possession of stolen property on Oct. 20, 2010. She gave an Ashley address at the time.

The charge came after someone stole tools, including welding equipment, from a new construction site on March 7, 2010, in Noble County, according to Noble County Deputy Todd Weber.

The owner of the equipment eventually saw his custom-designed welding helmet in a pawn shop and alerted police. According to pawn shop records, King brought the helmet to be pawned, and she was called in for questioning and charged. She told Weber she found the helmet in a barn.

On March 1, King accepted a plea deal that called for one year in jail, with all but 24 days suspended. She was credited with having already served 24 days, including good-time credit. No one else was charged in that case.

'Other' Julie King gets surprising call

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

ASHLEY — The coincidence is compelling.

Julie Marie Brand King was born Oct. 2, 1979. She is married, lives in Ashley and works second shift at Rieke Corp. in Hamilton. She has two children and two stepchildren.

The area's other Julie Marie Brand King was born Oct. 3, 1978. She lives in Auburn. Thursday, she was shot by police in Waterloo after a three-hour manhunt that began when either she or the man she was with, Ralph Hardiek, shot Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady in the face.

'Other' King

Brady and King remained hospitalized Friday morning. Hardiek was killed by police after pointing a handgun at them.

When police attempted to contact next of kin about the incident Thursday, an Indiana State Police officer called the mother of Julie King. He called the wrong one.

Fortunately, Julie King of Ashley was at her mother's home when the 10 a.m. call came, and she answered it herself.

"I was at her house wrapping Christmas presents," King said Friday morning. As for her mother, she said, "I can't imagine what she would have thought if she had taken the call."

The officer spoke directly.

"He was looking for the next of kin for Julie Brand King," the other Julie Brand King said.

But King said she wasn't alarmed or as shocked as she might have been. She previously had received mail for the other Julie King. When the other King was arrested and her name showed up in the news a year or so ago, co-workers at Rieke were shocked when the innocent Julie King came to work the next day.

"Everybody said, 'Oh my gosh, I thought you were in jail,'" she recalled.

So the police officer's call Friday did not stun her.

"I knew which Julie he was talking about," she said.

The officer seemed to know there were two Julie Kings, too, she said.

When she hung up the phone, the weight of what had happened hit her.

"It was kind of overwhelming," King said. "I was almost in tears."

Once she settled down, she said the call actually became helpful. She was able to notify her workplace and some family members. But she was not able to get to all of her family before the shooting victim's name was released.

"My aunt was very worried," Julie King said. "She thought I had been kidnapped."

King has a 4-year-old son, and she had a little talk with him about what he might hear on television or on the radio.

"I told him mommy's name is in the news, but she didn't do anything wrong," she said.

King said she wishes good fortune for the woman who shares her name.

"I hope she gets her life back together," King said. "I hope the best for her. I hope she makes it."

As far as she knows, she said, she and the other Julie King are not related.

STAR 2011 Auburn, Indiana
DECEMBER 18

'His favorite color was green'

God, family mattered to Eastside hero

BY NICHOLE HACHA-THOMAS
nthomas@kpcnews.net

ST. JOE — Stephen Bevington loved many things about life. He loved God, his family, farming and Eastside High School football.

Bevington, 54, died Nov. 4 at DeKalb Health hospital in Auburn.

He was born on the Fourth of July in 1957 in Fort Wayne. A lifelong resident of St. Joe, Bevington attended Riverdale Elementary School and graduated from Eastside High School in 1975.

It was in the halls of high school where Bevington met his future wife, Jacalyn. The pair were married Dec. 30, 1977, in Butler and raised two daughters, Rachel and Jessie, who both also attended Eastside.

"He really loved it here," Mrs. Bevington said. "We could have moved, but we chose to stay here."

According to Mrs. Bevington and Pastor Stuart Kruse at the couple's church, County Line Church of God, Mr. Bevington was very passionate about his relationship with Christ. He was involved in the church in several ways, including serving in church leadership roles, leading Sunday Bible studies and singing in the church choir.

Kruse remembers a class Bevington led titled "An Ordinary Day with Jesus," about ways to experience Jesus in everyday life.

"He did an awesome job leading it," Kruse said. "I think he always had a heart to reach out to people in the name of Christ."

In addition to serving his church, Mr. Bevington was a faithful husband and father. Mrs. Bevington said both their daughters were "daddy's girls" and they both, by all accounts, had their father wrapped around their little fingers.

"God was his first priority, but his family definitely came second," Mrs. Bevington said.

Kruse echoed her sentiment.

"One of the things that I admired him the most about was his love for his wife and his total devotion to being the father that God wanted him to be," Kruse said.

During the high school football season, when Mr. Bevington wasn't in church, working or hanging out with his family, everyone knew where to find him — at the Eastside football games.

Mr. Bevington was a member of the 1974 Eastside team that compiled an 8-1 record, losing only to Leo in the final game of the season. Mr. Bevington was named to the all-area team the same year, which earned him a space on the Eastside Wall of Fame.

Once the couple's oldest daughter began at Eastside, the family attended more and more games until they recently made it a habit to attend both home and away games.

Kruse said there was no denying Mr. Bevington was an avid Blazer fan.

"He and I talked sports once in a while — and being a DeKalb guy, of course, he liked to give me a little ribbing," Kruse said.

When Eastside organized a 25-year reunion of the 1974 team, her husband jumped at the chance to dust off his old, green-and-white varsity letter jacket to wear to the homecoming game, Mrs. Bevington said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Stephen Bevington was a member of the 1974 Eastside High School football team. He grew his hair out during the season and vowed not to cut it until after the last game. His wife, Jacalyn Bevington, said near the end of the season he had a hard time getting his helmet to fit over his hair.

"He always talked about that season," Mrs. Bevington said. "He told the story of the way he intercepted a pass and scored a touchdown. That was big."

Mrs. Bevington said her husband often would see former teammates on the street and instead of a traditional hello, the two former players would yell out play calls to one another.

"There was no doubt about it," she said. "his favorite color was green."

STAR
DECEMBER 18 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Amy Lou Martin

KING GEORGE, Va. — Amy Lou Martin, 55, of King George, Va., and formerly of Northeast Indiana, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at her home.

She was born on June 16, 1956, in Angola.

She attended school in the Northeast Indiana area.

Mrs. Martin worked as a medical transcriptionist in King George, Va., where she has lived for the past eight years.

Surviving are her husband, Bobby F. Martin; mother, Helen E. Carpenter; daughter, Claire E. Martin; grandson, Tommy J. Martin; sister, Chris Myers; and a half sister, Tonya Barr.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ronald E. Boyd.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, 2011 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will take place in Waterloo Cemetery.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. Monday prior to the service at the funeral home.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Ralph Hardiek

WATERLOO — Ralph Daniel Hardiek, 41, died Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011, in Waterloo.

There were no services or calling.

Harland Smith

CROOKED LAKE — Harland J. "Smitty" Smith, 81, of Crooked Lake died Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at Cameron Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Smith

He was born in Chicago, Ill., on Jan. 4, 1930, to Fred A. and Camella (Kreyder) Smith.

Smitty was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He received the Korean Service Medal with five bronze battle stars.

He was a retired truck driver for Superior Tea / Coffee. He has driven trucks for a number of different companies since 1946. He attended Hudson United Brethren Church in Hudson. He was a member of Truck Drivers, Oil Drivers, Filling Station and Platform Workers Union Local 705, VFW of Angola and Angola American Legion Post 0777.

He married Janet Houser on July 5, 1952, in Auburn and she survives. He is also survived by two daughters, Christina L. (Bill) Rotenberry of Bartlett, Ill., and Nancy J (Richard) Kent of Angola; five grandchildren, Katrina Rotenberry, Jeffrey (Laura) Rotenberry, Christopher T. Kent, Curtis R. Kent, and James E. Kent; a great-granddaughter, Ayna Rotenberry; a sister, Donna Harris of Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews including Bruce Smith of Palos Heights, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Claude Smith and Robert Smith.

Services will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, at Hudson United Brethren Church in Hudson with the Rev. Craig Burkholder officiating. Burial in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett. Visitation is Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service at the church Friday from 10-11.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Cameron Hospice. To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Rex Cochard

FORT WAYNE — Rex Roscoe Cochard, 99, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011, at his residence in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Cochard

Mr. Cochard was born in Fostoria, Ohio, on Dec. 9, 1912, to the late Ross and Gertrude (Linhart) Cochard. He married Ellen Ruth Longyear on Feb. 25, 1939, in Topeka.

Rex was a farmer in his younger days and later was employed with Curtis Farm Breeding Service as the district manager for the state of Ohio. He retired in the 1980s after more than 20 years of service.

He was a charter member of the Auburn Elks lodge.

Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Ellen Ruth Cochard of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Sharon and Fred Quance of Loudon, Tenn.; three sons, Dale and Ingrid Cochard of Fort Wayne, Doug and Christine Cochard of Rockledge, Fla., and Gary and Charlotte Cochard of Bumpass, Va.; seven grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and a brother, C.C. Cochard of Scottsdale, Ariz.

He was also preceded in death by his brothers George, Dewey, Willis, and Robert Cochard, and his sister, Donna Barker.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville. Services will begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Philip Rogers, pastor of the Middletown Church of the Nazarene in Middletown.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice or the American Diabetes Association.

Send a condolence to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

STAR
DECEMBER 20 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Waterloo's wounded officer still improving

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — A Waterloo deputy marshal shot in the line of duty early Thursday morning continues to show improvement in the intensive care unit at an area hospital, according to Waterloo Marshal Jay Oberholtzer.

Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady, 47, was shot in the face at approximately 3 a.m. Thursday at the intersection of Railroad and Center streets in the town. Police believe either Ralph Hardiek, 41, or Julie King, 33, both of Auburn, shot Brady after he responded to a call about motorists in need of assistance.

Brady

Hardiek was shot and killed by police at 6:02 a.m. Thursday after pointing a gun at officers while he was hiding with King behind a house in the 200 block of South Center Street.

King was critically injured in the incident, and she also is hospitalized in intensive care.

"His spirits are very good considering what he's been through."

Jay Oberholtzer
Waterloo Town Marshal

Monday afternoon, Oberholtzer said Brady still is not breathing on his own, but he has been taken off a ventilator and is now breathing with the assistance of a tracheotomy. The ventilator was removed in advance of surgery Brady is facing this week to repair his jaw.

The bullet that struck Brady entered below his left eye and exited near his right earlobe and jaw, the marshal said last week.

"His spirits are very good considering what he's been through," Oberholtzer said Monday.

Viola Reinhart

BUTLER — Viola M. Reinhart, 91, died Monday Dec. 19, 2011, at Parkview Hospital.

She was born Oct. 28, 1920, in Wilmington Township, DeKalb County, to Harry and Zola (Beard) Ginder.

She retired from County Line Cheese Company after 14 years of service.

She married Wilbur D. Reinhart on June 7, 1941 in Newville. He preceded in death on April 11, 1997.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Kayota and Vernis Handshoe of Butler; two grandchildren Tonya (Chad) Liberty of Butler and Almond Handshoe of Garrett; two great-grandchildren, Bryce and Haleigh Liberty of Butler; and two sisters, Kathryn Betz of Warsaw and Irene Curry of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and a sister, Genivie Keller.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Michael Halferty officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Parkview Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

WOUNDED: *King not considered a risk to flee*

FROM PAGE A1

The Indiana State Police investigation into Thursday's shootings continues. DeKalb County Sheriff Don Lauer said no one had been charged as of Monday.

"It's still under investigation," Lauer said.

"This gives us time to complete a thorough investigation," he added.

Lauer's department is assisting state police in the investigation.

Officers from the sheriff's department are not watching King. As of Monday morning, Lauer said his understanding was that King was alive, but was in critical condition.

"There is security at the hospital," Lauer said. "There is security for Steve Brady."

Lauer said King has not been placed under arrest because she is not a flight risk at this time, and to help the county avoid paying any medical costs associated with her hospital stay. Once a suspect is in custody, the sheriff's department becomes liable for medical expenses.

"She is not going anywhere," Lauer said.

STAR
DECEMBER 21 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Roger Hartman

CORUNNA — Roger A. Hartman, 61, of Corunna, died Monday Dec. 19, 2011 at his home.

He was born March 10, 1950, the son of Robert A. and Donna (Shippy) Hartman.

He worked for Strawser Brothers in Kendallville for 23 years then continued working in concrete and masonry construction on his own.

He was a volunteer for the Corunna Fire Department for 31 years. He also enjoyed hunting, bowling and slow pitch softball.

Survivors include his wife Melonie Hartman of Corunna; son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and YaLonda Hartman of Waterloo; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Chad Seiler of Auburn; mother, Donna Hartman of Corunna; brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Rosemary of Corunna; sister and brother-in-law, Denise and Artie Collins of Kendallville; and grandchildren, Denton Stayer, Megann Hartman, Zack Seiler, Nate Seiler and Luke Seiler.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert A. Hartman.

Memorial calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main Street Auburn.

Memorials are to the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department or DeKalb Health Home Care and Hospice.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mccomb.com.

DARKNESS: *Sent to detention center at age 11*

FROM PAGE A1

She said losing her four young boys was more difficult than hearing that her first-born had been slain.

"This is nothing compared to losing your children when they are little," she said.

Ford said she moved back to Indiana and tried to find information on her sons by contacting schools and through relatives, but she learned little.

From conversations with her son later in life, she learned Ralph grew up in a difficult home where alcoholism was an issue, she said. As a youngster, he was moved from state to state and at some point ended up in Utah. He ran away at 11 and was sent to a youth detention center.

"He was damaged when he was very young," Ford said.

Ford regained custody of Ralph again in Indiana for approximately a year when he was 14, but he got in more trouble and was sent back to Utah.

Ford did not see him from the time he was 15 until April 2009, more than 20 years later.

The rest of his early years were spent either in youth centers or foster homes. When he was 17, he struck out on his own.

"He chose to live on the streets," Ford said. "That's when the involvement with drugs started, I'm sure."

By the time he was 17 or 18, Hardiek was serving his first sentence in adult prison. There would be more.

• On July 25, 1989, he was sentenced to prison in Utah on a charge of mayhem, a second-degree felony. According to Utah criminal code 6-15-105, "Every person who unlawfully and intentionally deprives a human being of a member of his body, or disables or renders it useless, or who cuts out or disables the tongue, puts out an eye, or slits the nose, ear, or lip is guilty of mayhem."

• On Aug. 17, 1994, he was sentenced in Utah on a charge of aggravated possession of a dangerous weapon at a correctional facility.

• On Nov. 10, 2004, he was sentenced in Boonville County, Idaho, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

In April 2009, Ford got a call from her son. He wanted to know if he could come to Indiana and live with her. Ford jumped at the chance, though some friends and family members cautioned her about bringing a man with a history of violence into her home.

Ford took six months off work just to get to know her son again. Ford's husband also welcomed Hardiek, and the two worked out together at a gym and bicycled together.

"He did really good that whole time," Ford said. "He studied a lot. He read a lot."

His studies mostly involved psychology, philosophy and Buddhism, she said. At one point, Hardiek talked about joining a Buddhist temple, where he could get away from people.

"He didn't feel like he functioned well in society," Ford said.

Then he met Cassie in May 2010, and his life changed, Ford said.

"The chaos didn't start until the relationship with that woman started," she said.

Chaos. It's a word Ford uses frequently in describing her son's life. The years in youth detention centers and prisons had marked him.

"I knew he was very capable of violence," Ford said.

2

Glen Wills and Kendallville Police Department Cpl. Doug Davis allegedly noticed the odor of burnt marijuana at the residence. According to Wills, police also observed items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine in plain view in the home.

The occupants of the home were removed, and police obtained a search warrant.

Once the search warrant was obtained, police found an active methamphetamine lab and various items associated with the manufacture of the drug.

Cassie Hardiek eventually was sentenced on multiple charges, including child neglect, and is currently incarcerated at the Indiana Women's Prison.

Ralph Hardiek was arrested, but posted bond and was released. At some point, he moved to Auburn and met Julie King.

On Dec. 5, Hardiek brought King to his mother's house. They visited for approximately three hours, then came back later in the day.

Hardiek paid his mother one more visit on Dec. 7, the day before he was to be sentenced to spend the next 12 years in prison.

"He stopped over before I had to go to work," Ford said.

She told him that night that he looked tired, and he should go home and get some rest. Hardiek told her he would be getting plenty of sleep once he was in prison.

On the night of Dec. 8, Ford got a call from her son.

"I said, 'What are you doing?'" she said. "He said, 'I overslept and I missed court.'"

She asked him what he was going to do, and he said he wasn't sure.

"He made no mention of any violence," she said. "He seemed OK. He didn't seem angry. He didn't seem agitated."

She never heard from him again.

When she got off work Thursday at 6:45 a.m., word of what happened in

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She said she thought about going to the police, but she never felt threatened herself, and she knew that reporting her son as "capable of violence" would have given police no reason to get involved.

As time passed, she started to see the chaos claiming him again.

"The darkness we saw in his heart and soul became progressively worse," she said.

He began to talk about doing violence, but was never specific.

He moved to Orland with Cassie in August 2010. They married on Sept. 29, 2010.

At some point, the couple moved to Avilla, and Ford knew her son's involvement with methamphetamine had deepened.

"I knew he'd been cooking," she said. "I knew that's how they were paying the rent."

In February 2011, someone reported the couple to the Department of Child Services.

It wasn't her, Ford said, but Hardiek distanced himself from his mother at that time.

On April 29, Department of Child Services workers requested the assistance of the Avilla Police Department for a welfare check at a mobile home in the 900 block of Autumn Hills Drive in Avilla.

Avilla Town Marshal

3

Waterloo hit her factory, though authorities had not released the names of anyone involved. She said she exchanged a glance with a co-worker who knew of Ralph's situation with the law.

When she got home, she told relatives to turn on the television. Police eventually contacted a family member. Word got to Ford.

"No parent would want to hear it," she said. "He was my first child."

Contemplating the fabric of her son's life, she holds fast to the beginning of Ralph Hardiek's life quilt.

"I see him as that boy," she said. "I still see him as that. You may not approve of the heinous lifestyle … but you love them."

In the end, she said, Hardiek's unsettled childhood and time in prison made living what most people would consider a normal, peaceful life impossible.

"The chaos was so normal for him," she said. "That's where he was comfortable."

She also holds tightly to the tattered part of the quilt that marks her son's ruined end, collecting newspaper clippings even now. It's all she has, and she clings to it hard, even as she pays for her son's funeral-home costs.

"It's the last thing a mother can do for her child," she said.

STAR
DECEMBER 22 2011 Auburn, Indiana

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ralph Hardiek puts his arm around his mother, Gloria Ford, in a recent photograph. Police gunfire killed Hardiek Dec. 15 after he pointed a gun at officers in Waterloo, according to police.

Heart of darkness

Suspect killed in Waterloo lived life of chaos

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

HUDSON — When prompted, Gloria Ford presents her son's life story like a quilt.

One hand holds the first squares, and these seem almost like new. The other hand holds a stark contrast, newer squares fading to gray, then disintegrating in her fingertips at the end.

The middle of the quilt is a patchwork of her son's own words and snippets gleaned from schools and faraway relatives.

Somewhere amid this patchwork, perhaps in the gaps she hasn't been able to fill, Ralph Hardiek's life unraveled.

And a mother mourns.

Hardiek, 41, was killed Dec. 15 after pointing a gun at police officers in Waterloo. His companion, Julie M. King, 33, was also shot behind a residence in the 200 block of South Center Street. She is hospitalized in intensive care.

Police believe either Hardiek or King shot Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady, 47, in the left cheek below the eye. Brady remains hospitalized in serious condition in an area hospital.

Hardiek at 6

Hardiek at 15

"The darkness we saw in his heart and soul became progressively worse."

Gloria Ford
Mother of man shot in Waterloo

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life in prison."

She said she has no ill feelings for the police who shot her son, saying they were just doing their jobs and making the community safe again.

Hardiek had skipped a Dec. 8 sentencing hearing in Noble County that would have sent him to prison for 12 years on a charge of manufacturing methamphetamine. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

Hardiek had been in and out of youth detention centers and prisons pretty much his whole life, Ford said. He knew what prison was like.

Ford said Monday that the funeral home where her son's body was taken allowed her to see his face.

"He looked like he was at peace," Ford said. "That was nice."

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"I pray he has a really good recovery," Ford said this week.

A manhunt ensued after the 3 a.m. shooting, and police eventually discovered Hardiek and King hiding under a deck. When neither responded to police commands, police used a Taser electronic stun device in an attempt to make Hardiek comply.

According to police, Hardiek rolled over and pointed a gun at police. The officers defended themselves by shooting, and Hardiek was struck multiple times.

Ford said she has no doubt this is how it happened — how her first-born son died.

"I think he made the choice — today is my day," Ford said. "I don't think it was an accident he rolled over and pointed a gun. He knew he would never be a free man again. The choice was better than living the rest of his

Ford grew up a happy child, according to his mother.

"He had no anger issues at that time," she said.

Gloria and her husband had four sons, and they raised them in Indiana until they moved to Utah, when Ralph was 5. When her son was 7, Ford said, she and her husband divorced. Her husband was granted full custody, and she was denied visitation and contact rights.

"That was very haunting for him," she said about her son. "It was very haunting for me."

At many times, she did not even know which state her sons were living in. A lawyer told her that to see her son and gain information, she would have to find where they were staying, establish her own residency in that state, and then file a grievance with the court system.

Benefit event set for officer

BUTLER — A benefit auction for Waterloo Deputy Marshal Stephen Brady will take place Saturday, Feb. 4, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 541 W. Main St., Butler.

Brady

Deputy Brady, a 13-year veteran of the department, was shot in the line of duty Dec. 15.

Donations of items for the auctions may be arranged by calling Jim Rodman at 570-7082 or contacting any Waterloo police officer.

The event will feature live and silent auctions, live music by the Marshall Law band, comedy and magic by Jim McGee and more.

All proceeds of the auction will go to Brady and his wife, Waterloo Sgt. Janet Brady.

An account for donations to the Bradys has been established at Farmers State Bank in Waterloo. Donations may be mailed to Farmers State Bank, c/o Stephen Brady Benefit, P.O. Box 708, Waterloo, IN 46793.

STAR
DECEMBER 2011 Auburn, Indiana
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Dorothy Nester

AUBURN — Dorothy R. Nester, 80, died Wednesday, Dec, 21, 2011, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born on Aug. 13, 1931, in Hicksville, Ohio, the daughter of Earl and Irene (Cook) Beverly.

She was a 1949 graduate of Hicksville High School.

On March 8, 1958, she was united in marriage to Wilburn (Web) Nester and he preceded her in death on March 12, 1989.

Dorothy retired from the Hicksville Bank after more than 30 years.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and she enjoyed teaching Sunday school at Grace United Methodist Church in Hicksville.

Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Brenda (Tony) Kratzman of Auburn; a granddaughter Kodee Gallant of Auburn; a sister, Jo (Mike) Lucas of Hicksville; a niece Penny (Larry) Schulz of Ney, Ohio; and two nephews, Rex Pontius of Fort Meyers Beach, Fla., and J. Jay (Cathy) Gloor of Cecil, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and a brother, Walter Beverly.

Visitation for Dorothy will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville, with an Eastern Star service at 7:30 p.m.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville.

Memorials may be made to DeKalb Central Music Association.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

STAR
DECEMBER 23 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Shirley Hetrick

HAMILTON — Shirley Jean (Russell) Hetrick, 77, of Hamilton, died Thursday Dec. 22, 2011, at her son's home in Butler.

Mrs. Hetrick

Born Aug. 12, 1934. in Peru, Ind., she was the daughter of the late Kenneth and Ruby Russell.

She was the former owner of Hetrick's Pizza House in Hamilton for 16 years. She was a member of the Lord's Church.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Estilene Hetrick of Butler; daughters and sons-in-law, Terri and Monte Woolace of Stryker, Ohio, Shery and Steve Metz of Hicksville, Ohio, and Carri and Todd Christlieb of Hamilton; grandchildren, Sirese, Mindi, Jeremy, Crystal, Erica and Stephanie; four great-grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; and 14 step-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald E. Hetrick in 1978.

Funeral services are Tuesday at 11 a.m. with visiting one hour prior at Hamilton Church of Christ, 4040 E. Church St., Hamilton.Visitation also is Monday from 4-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.pinnington mcomb.com.

STAR
DECEMBER 25 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Emerson was funny, smart, caring

East Noble theater veteran, 32, enjoyed movies and history

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

ROME CITY — "A great intellect, a great wit and a great friend have passed from this place," Benjamin King said about his boyhood friend, Joseph Mansfield Emerson.

Emerson, 32, of Rome City, died Nov. 26, 2011, following a 3 1/2-month illness.

King recalled the first time they met at an East Noble Theatre rehearsal. They were cast together in a production of "The Wizard of Oz." Emerson was in the seventh grade, and King was in the fifth grade.

"It was Joe's razor-sharp wit that most endeared him to me. We immediately realized that our senses of humor were similar," King said. They stayed close friends until Emerson's death.

Joe, as he was known by family and friends, graduated from East Noble High School in 1998. He was active in theater most of his school years. Longtime East Noble Theatre director Craig Munk first cast 6-year-old Joe as the youngest child in the East Noble Theatre production of the musical "The King and I" in 1985.

"I fondly remember him being moved from place to place on the set by the king simply grabbing him by the seat of his pants while he was still in a prostrate position," said Munk. "He was the cutest child actor."

The role launched Emerson into a 12-year involvement with East Noble Theatre. His next role was Tiny Tim in "The Christmas Carol." Munk said Emerson became one of his most versatile actors.

"Joe created many memorable roles," Munk said. He played the young son in the 1994 production of "The Homecoming," Mr. Twimble, the retiring man in the mailroom in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," and the Artful Dodger in the 1997 production of the musical "Oliver." He last appeared on the Cole Auditorium stage in East Noble Theatre's 45th anniversary show this summer.

Emerson came from an East Noble Theatre family, following in the high school theatrical footsteps of his brother, Dr. Robert Emerson, and his sister, Laura. His mother, Sue, has been involved in East Noble Theatre for more than 30 years, according to Munk.

"He loved the theater and we loved Joe," Munk said.

Emerson's sister, Laura Slusher, described her brother as funny, smart and caring, and as one of her favorite people in the whole world. He loved history and film and graduated from Ball State's Honors College in 2002, majoring in history and film.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joe Emerson, left, with his sister, Laura (Emerson) Slusher, and brother, Dr. Robert Emerson.

"He did a school project preserving some of our family history, recording experiences of our grandfather, Allen Emerson, and great uncle, John Emerson, in World War II," Slusher said.

Joe's caring, sharing attitude toward life was noted by Pastor Barbara Cross of Rome City United Methodist Church at his funeral service.

"Joe would go eat with residents at Sylvan Manor. They said he was always smiling and his eyes twinkled as he looked at the food," Cross said.

His friend, Adam Burwell from Waco, Texas, said he has never known a more thoughtful and kindhearted person.

Joe was a movie buff and enjoyed watching movies and discussing them. He often recommended movies to family members and friends.

History was one of his passions, according to his close friend, Tony Millus. Both shared a love for the history of the Roman Empire.

"Our discussions will be greatly missed," said Millus.

"Joe enjoyed dogs and cats," said his sister. He often made efforts to tame the barn kittens on his parents' farm in hopes of finding them adoptive homes.

"Every day I miss being able to just pick up the phone and talk to him. He had a good group of friends who are also deeply saddened by the loss," Slusher added.

Among those close friends are Kevin Jansen, Millus and King. He would get together with his friends on Monday nights for some "guy time," as Jansen described it.

"It was Joe's night. He decided what card game or board game we would play. He spent a lot of time organizing the evening's events, and we knew he looked forward to each Monday night," Jansen said.

Millus recalled how his friend looked forward to goose hunting in the fall and winter months. Joe didn't leave the house early in the mornings like most hunters.

"His shooting abilities made up for the patience that most hunters need to have," said Millus. "Joe would wander off to the pond (on the family farm), where he knew the geese would be. You would hear a couple of shots, and he would come back to the house with his limit."

He enjoyed having fun with his friends.

"My fellow historian and oldest friend is now a part of my history, and geese everywhere are a bit safer," Millus said.

Asked for his thoughts about his close friend, King spoke not only about his intellect, wit and friendship, but looked to a future with his boyhood buddy.

"Those that did not have the privilege of knowing Joe in this life may know him in the next," King said. "I know I'll be looking him up."

Emerson is survived by his parents, Lawrence E. and Sue Ann (Stump) Emerson of Rome City; sister and brother-in-law, Laura and Bruce Slusher of Swanton, Ohio; a brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Robert Emerson and Dr. Anne Marie Monty of Carmel; and two nephews, Martin L. Emerson and George D. Emerson, both of Carmel.

He is buried in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

STAR
DECEMBER 25 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Robert Mangus

HAMILTON — Robert R. Mangus, 61, of Hamilton died Friday, Dec. 23 at his home in Hamilton.

He was born Oct. 6, 1950 in Adrian, Mich., to Robert E. and Pearl (Escott) Mangus. His father survives in Butler, and his mother survives in Ocala, Fla.

Robert was a farmer and self-employed truck driver for Evans Trucking in Butler.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler, the Butler American Legion Post 202 and the Sheriff's Posse in Leelanau County, Mich.

Mr. Mangus

He enjoyed farming, rodeos and bronco horse riding.

He married Margaret M. Bauer on Oct. 28, 1968, in Michigan Center, Mich. and she survives. He is also survived by a daughter, Charlotte M. (Roy) Ahrndt of Butler; a son, Danny R. (Beth) Mangus of Middleburg, Fla.; two brothers, Luck (Leslie) Mangus of Hudson, Mich.; Rock Mangus of Jackson, Mich.; a sister, Julie (Joe) Adams of Ocala, Fla.; in-laws, Pat (Patricia) Bauer of Jacksonville, Fla.; Mike Bauer of Tampa, Fla.; Bill Bauer of Jacksonville, Fla.; Betty Bresnahan of Jacksonville, Fla.; Laurie Bauer of Jacksonville, Fla.; Barb Webster of St. Augustine, Fla.; Loann (Richard) Robinson of Hamilton; a father-in-law, Robert J. Bauer of Jacksonville, Fla.; five grandchildren, Aaron J Ahrndt, Alan R. Ahrndt, Alicia E. Ahrndt, Amanda Mangus and Malisa Mangus; two great-grandchildren, Lane Mangus and Lucy Mangus.

He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Mary M. Bauer; a brother-in-law, Bobby Bauer; and a sister-in-law, Terri Bauer.

Services will be 4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne St., Waterloo with Pastor Dennis Gauger officiating. Calling will be two hours prior to the service from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Preferred memorials can be directed to the Butler Eagles.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark,com.

Gloria Adkins

HUNTINGTON — Gloria J. Adkins, 80, of Huntington, died Sunday, December 25, 2011 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Gloria was born September 16, 1931, in Huntington, the daughter of Carl and Evelyn (Jones) Wilson. She graduated from high school. Gloria married Robert Adkins on September 10, 1976 in Huntington. He preceded her in death on November 7, 2006.

Gloria retired in 1989 from Stanadyne Distribution Center in Garrett where she was the Personnel Director for 10 years. She was a member of Central Christian Church. Gloria loved her family and her dog, Jazzy.

Gloria is survived by two sons — Terry Beekman of Michigan and Steve Beekman of Vermillion, Ohio; five daughters — Gail (Mike) Baum of Warsaw, Rhonda (Greg) Kenline of Albion, Kay (Terry) Pfister of Huntington, Pam (John) Green of South Bend and Missie (Brad) Tempest of Columbus; 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Her parents and brothers, Clyde Wilson, Carl Wilson and Dick Wilson, preceded her in death.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2011 at Bailey-Love Mortuary. Graveside service and burial will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington. Rev. Ray Scribner will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to Airedale Terrier Rescue and Adoption or Humane Society of Huntington County in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35, West Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.baileylove.com. Bailey-Love Mortuary was honored to serve the Gloria J. Adkins family.

Paul Ervin Jr.

BUTLER — Paul C. "Bud" Ervin Jr. died Sunday, December 25, 2011 at IU Medical Center, Indianapolis.

Mr. Ervin

Paul was born June 29, 1953 in Kansas City, Mo., to Paul C. Sr. and W. JoAnn (nee Grimm) Ervin. His father passed away on January 3, 2006, and his mother survives in Butler.

Paul attended Butler Elementary School, Eastside High School, Northwest College of Archibald, Ohio, and Toledo University in Toledo, OH.

Bud enjoyed life to the fullest, and cherished his daughter Tracy of Bozeman, MT. his sister Rebecca of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and three brothers, Charles of Schertz, TX. and James and David of Butler. He is also survived by nieces and nephews, JoAnn, Linda, Suzanna, Tiffany, Christopher, Bradley, April and many cousins.

Services will be 1 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2011 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne Street, Waterloo, IN. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be one hour prior to the services Friday from noon until 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be given in Bud's name to the charity of the donor's choice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Martha Custer

GARRETT — Martha J. Custer, 88, of Garrett, died at 12:45 a.m. Sunday, December 25, 2011 at her home.

Mrs. Custer

She was born November 23, 1923 in Garrett to Roy A. and Maggie M. (Caid) McKinley and they preceded her in death. She married Wayne C. Custer on March 3, 1945 in Ohio and he survives in Garrett.

Martha worked as a waitress at Plattner's/Shippy's Steakhouse retiring in the 1980s. She also worked at Messengers in Auburn, Gala and Royal Theaters and at the Behler Pharmacy in Garrett as well as being a homemaker. She was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

Martha is survived by two daughters, Marsha (Tom) Armstrong of Auburn, and Cheryl (Robert) Clelland of Havre de Grace, Md.; a son, Todd (Mariko) Custer of Garrett; two grandsons, Scott (Valerie) Armstrong of Auburn, and Marc (Krista) Armstrong of Noblesville; two granddaughters, Chantal (Grant) Crabtree of Corunna, and Erica Likens; five great-grandchildren, Landon, Lily and Elle Armstrong of Auburn, and Sadie and Hudson Armstrong of Noblesville; and a step-great-grandson, Brooks Crabtree of Corunna.

Martha was also preceded in death by a daughter, Connie Jean Custer; daughter-in-law, Kathy Hughes Custer; two brothers, Earl and George McKinley; and five sisters, Jessie Mae Short, Mary Sithen, Betty Whirledge, Cletus Rowe and Margaret Franke.

A funeral service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011 at Thomas Funeral Home, with Al Black officiating. Calling will take place from 4-7 p.m. Burial will take place at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to DeKalb Home Health and Hospice or Gene Stratton Porter State Memorial.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Steven Stickney

GARRETT — Steven Stickney, 32, of Garrett, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011 at his home in Garrett.

He was born Aug. 7, 1979 in Auburn to Walter and Elvia (Moreno) Stickney. They survive in Garrett.

Also surviving are: his life partner, Alice Phillips of Garrett; a daughter, Ashten Stickney of Garrett; a son, Jonah Stickney of Garrett; and a sister and brother-in-law, Shannon and Nathan Marquis of Butler.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Shelia Stickney.

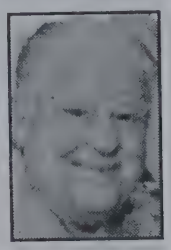
There will be no services at this time. A memorial service will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Wayne, 2200 Randalia Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46805-4638.

To view an online obituary or to send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Russell Carteaux Sr.

AVILLA — Russell J. Carteaux Sr., lifetime Avilla resident and business owner, died on Monday, December 26, 2011, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He had been in declining health for the past month.



Mr. Carteaux

The son of William L. and Alice C. (Schmenk) Carteaux, he was born on March 13, 1923, at his parent's farm house in Avilla. He graduated from Avilla High School in the class of 1941. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University.

On June 9, 1951, he married Nelle Esther White at the Auburn Catholic Church in Auburn. She died on May 11, 2010.

Mr. Carteaux was the owner and operator of Carteaux TV and Appliance in Avilla.

He was a United States Army veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Carteaux was very active in his community. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and Avilla American Legion Post #240, where he was very active in the Honor Guard and served as Chaplain. He was a member of the Avilla Lions Club for many years and held every office and for many years up until this past year he served as club treasurer. He also ran the Lion's Club booth at the Noble County Fairgrounds and he received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award.

He was the director of the Noble County Civil Defense (now known as Emergency Management) from 1969 to 2007. During his tenure as director, he was part of many changes in the emergency services. He also served on the county LEPC and S.A.R.A.H committees.

Mr. Carteaux was the commissioner of the Boy Scouts, a member of the Avilla Chamber of Commerce, which he was named twice the Avilla Citizen of The Year Award.

He also belonged to stamp clubs, and the Hoosier Hisser Cat Club. In his formative years, he was involved in the Avilla Youth Baseball Assoc., serving as a coach and umpire.

Besides his many civil and military service awards, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by the DAR — this award is the highest award one can receive by the DAR.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Russell Jr. and Laura Carteaux of Avilla, Richard and Tina Carteaux of Marion, David and Connie Carteaux of Kendallville and Timothy and Lora Carteaux of Kendallville; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Jane Cartwright of Wilmington, Jean and Ed Hollis of Grandville, Michigan, and Ann and Mark Robbins of Kendallville; 23 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother, Tom and Carolin Carteaux of Auburn; and a sister-in-law, Velma Carteaux of Auburn.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Nelle; his sisters, Lavon Jansen, Teresa Kebart, Barbara Carteaux and Beverly Floyd; his brothers, Robert Carteaux and Larry Carteaux; a son-in-law, Robert Catrwright; and three grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, December 30, 2011, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla. Father Ed Eperlding will officiate.

Visitation will be from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. on Thursday at Brazzell Funeral home, Avilla Chapel. A rosary service will be at 8 p.m. Visitation also will be one hour prior to the Mass Friday at the church.

Burial following the Mass will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla. American Legion Post #240 will conduct military rites. His grandchildren will serve as pallbearers and honorary pallbearer will be Bruce Carteaux.

Please make memorials in Russ' memory to the Lions Club Scholarship Fund or the American Legion Scholarship Fund.

Go to brazzellfuneralhome.com to send online condolences.

John Shepherd

COSPERVILLE — John B. Shepherd, age 69, of Cosperville, Ind., passed away Monday, December 26, 2011, at 3:27 p.m. at Hickory Creek Nursing Home in Kendallville, Ind.

Mr. Shepherd

He was born on July 27, 1942, to Odis and Ethel (Johnson) Shepherd in Prestonburg, Ky. On March 8, 1996, he married Sandra Anthony Miller. She survives.

He retired from Skyline RV in Elkhart and had also owned and operated JB Shepherd Landscaping for several years.

John loved to work outdoors and was an avid NASCAR and Dale Earnhardt Jr. fan.

He was a member of Sons of the American Legion Post 243 in Ligonier.

John is survived by his wife, Sandra Shepherd of Cosperville; four children, Michael (Angela) Shepherd of Port St. Lucie, Fla., Regina Tobiassen of West Palm Springs, Fla., Corina (Kurt) Minard of Wellington, Fla., and Delana (Alex) Pratt of Elkhart, Ind.; six stepchildren; 26 grandchildren; and two brothers, Arnold (Diane) Shepherd of Wauseon, Ohio, and Don M. (Patty) Shepherd of Ligonier.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Riley and Raymond Shepherd.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at noon at Yeager Funeral Home, 1589 Lincolnway South, Ligonier. Burial will take place at Waterloo Memorial Cemetery in Waterloo, Ind.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, December 29, 2011, from 3-8 p.m. at Yeager Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions are to the family in care of Yeager Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.yeagerfuneralhome.com.

Arrianna Castle

GARRETT — Arrianna Nicole Castle of Garrett was stillborn Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011. She is the daughter of James Booth of Kendallville and Heather Castle of Garrett.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Billy Tuttle and the Rev. Brent Wedding officiating.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

STAR
DECEMBER 29 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Wounded officer leaves hospital

FROM STAFF REPORTS

WATERLOO — Deputy Marshal Steve Brady returned home Tuesday night from a 12-day stay in a Fort Wayne hospital, where he was treated for a gunshot wound sustained Dec. 15, said Waterloo Marshal Jay Oberholtzer.

"He's doing, I think, awfully well. He's walking and he communicates fluently by writing all the time," Oberholtzer said.

A bullet struck Brady in the face while he was on patrol at 3 a.m. on Dec. 15, entering his left cheek and exiting his right jaw near the earlobe.

Brady, 47, underwent plastic surgery to repair his wounds last week. He still is using a trachea tube and breathing apparatus, but has some verbal communication, Oberholtzer said.

"He said a few words to me on the phone a little bit ago," Oberholtzer said Wednesday afternoon. "I think he's doing tremendous for what he's been through. He's pretty strong-willed, and I think he's going to come through this whole thing better than I would have imagined possible."

Brady

Police believe Brady was shot by either Ralph Hardiek, 41, of Auburn, or Julie King, 33, of Auburn. Brady had been looking for a man and woman who were reported to be walking into Waterloo after their car became stuck in a ditch north of town.

Officers found Hardiek and King three hours later, a short distance from the shooting scene at Railroad and Center streets in Waterloo. Police shot and killed Hardiek, 41, when he pointed a gun at the officers, investigators said. Police gunfire also struck King, 33, who remains in a Fort Wayne hospital.

A week before the incident, Hardiek had failed to appear in a Noble County court, where he was supposed to receive a 12-year prison sentence for methamphetamine crimes.

Mary Hammer

GARRETT — Mary L. Hammer, 69, of Garrett and formerly of Port Huron, Mich., died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

Burial will take place at a later date in Port Huron.

Memorials are to the church.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

STAR
DECEMBER 29 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Laben Lumpkins

WATERLOO — Laben B. Lumpkins, 88, of Waterloo died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Lumpkins worked in the buff and polish department at Ball Brass Foundry for 20 years before retiring in 1983.

Mr. Lumpkins

He was a U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class during WWII and a member of the Waterloo Lions Club.

He was born Jan. 5, 1923, in Greenup County, Ky., to Ruben J. and Eveline (Mullens) Lumpkins. He married Patricia Freed on Nov. 15, 1948, in Waterloo and she survives.

He is also survived by four children, Debra Y. Swift of Farmland, Ind., Diana L. (Kenneth) Ross of Kendallville, Gregory D. (Patricia) Lumpkins of Waterloo, and Blaine T. (Marcy) Lumpkins of Fremont; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Vera Guilkey of McDerment, Ohio, and Ruby (Don) Holt of Friendship, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Howard L. Lumpkins; three brothers, Roy Lumpkins, Carl Lumpkins and Clifford Lumpkins; and three sisters, Lottie Canfield, Katherine Lumpkins and Ginny Long.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery with graveside military honors conducted by American Legion Post # 97 of Auburn.

Visitation is from 11 a.m. until the service at 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. The Waterloo Lions Club will hold a Lions Club memorial service at 10:45 a.m. prior to the start of visitation. Memorials are to the Waterloo Lions Club.

To send condolences, visit www.fellerandclark.com.

Karon Ernest

AUBURN — Karon C. Ernest, 64, died Tuesday, December 27, 2011, at her home in Auburn.

She was born in Fort Wayne on July 11, 1947, to Harold and Ruth (Shuler) Cartwright. Her father has passed away and her mother survives in Fort Wayne.

She worked for 36 years at Cooper Tire and Rubber, retiring in 2004.

She enjoyed golfing.

She married Larry Ernest on January 27, 1968, in Auburn and he passed away just three weeks ago on December 1, 2011.

She is survived by her mother, Ruth of Fort Wayne; a son, Shannon Ernest of Kendallville; three grandchildren, Sonja Coleman, David Ernest and Lydia Dove; and her brothers and sisters, Brenda (Dan) Sewards of Spencerville, Harold "Mike" (Deb) Cartwright of Fort Wayne, Kay Perkins of New Haven and Brian Cartwright of North Webster.

She was preceded in death by her father, her husband, and twin sisters, Barbara Rae and Deborah Kay Cartwright.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 11:30 a.m. Monday, January 2, 2012, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Burial is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. A rosary will be recited Sunday at 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Additional calling is Monday 1 hour prior to the Mass from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the church.

Preferred memorials can be directed to SPCA or masses.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

James Remke

AVILLA — James T. "Bud" Remke, 87, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011, at 8:55 p.m. from injuries suffered in a fall.

He moved to Avilla, Ind., in 1950. On May 3, 1952, he married Retha (Fischer) Remke, and she survives in Avilla.

Mr. Remke

He enjoyed woodcraft, gardening and repairing lawnmowers. He loved socializing, playing cards and cheering for the Detroit Tigers.

Born Nov. 1, 1924, in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., to Andrew and Alma (Kraus) Remke. He worked on the family farm and as a driver for the Lawrenceburg Dairy. After moving to Indiana, he worked at International Harvester for 32 years until his retirement in 1981.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Diane (Mike) Mapes of Auburn; sons, Roger (Diane) Remke of Wheaton, Ill., Charles Remke (Sharon Schamberg) of Fort Wayne and Glenn (Julie) Remke of Fernley, Nev.; his grandchildren, Erin (Jeff) Sako of LaPorte, Ind., Angela (Shane) Turner of Auburn, Andrew Mapes (Rikki Salyers) of Indianapolis, Rachel Remke and Jessica Remke of Chicago, Cortney (Tyler) Gardiner of Fort Wayne, Erica Remke of Huntington, Taylor Remke of West Lafayette, Nick Remke of Fernley, Nev., and Elizabeth Schamberg of Auburn.

Also surviving are a great-granddaughter, Riley Gardiner, and a brother and sister, Clarence (Anna Bell) Remke and Nellie Remke of Lawrenceburg.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother and sister, Edward Remke and Helen Evers of Lawrenceburg. Another sister, Rose Ann Remke, died as an infant.

Visitation is from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, at Brazzell Funeral Home, 530 N. Main St., Avilla.

A Mass of Christian Burial is at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 228 N. Main St, Avilla, with visitation an hour prior to the service. The Rev. Edward Erpelding will officiate.

Burial will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials are to the church.

To sign online register book go to www.brazzell funeralhome. com.

Delbert Martin Sr.

AUBURN — Delbert E. Martin Sr. passed away Wednesday December 28, 2011, at his home at Smith Manor in Auburn.

He was born August 31, 1931, in Butler to Donald and Virginia (Lawhead) Martin.

Delbert owned and operated Mold Service Inc. in Butler since 1961. This year was their 50th year in business.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a member and very active in the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and for a number of years he taught Sunday school and was active in the Girard United Methodist Church in Girard, Mich.

He was a 1955 graduate of Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio.

He is a member of the Forest Lodge #239 of the Masonic Lodge.

In the 1960s and a little later he was active in local aviation. He flew planes and was involved in the local aviation club. He loved to restore and show antique tractors.

Delbert married Beverly Carr on Christmas Day 59 years ago, December 25, 1952, in Butler and she was by his side when he passed away Wednesday evening.

He is also survived by three children, Rita Reeder and her husband, James, of Terre Haute, Retha Martin and her husband, Robert Van Alstine, of Cataula, Ga., and Gene Martin and his wife, Nancy, of Orland; four grandchildren, Mercedes (David) Ofsansky, Chanel Reeder, Keith (Marcia) Groff and Stephanie Groff; and one great-grandson, Logan Groff; and three sisters, Donna Parker, Ruth (Doug) Meyer of West Unity, Ohio, and Sarah Mattero of California.

Delbert was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Rachel Martin and Rhonda Martin; a brother, Paul Martin; and a sister, Madgeline Wicks.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday, January 2, 2012, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, Ind., with the Rev. Michael Halferty officiating. Burial will be in Edgerton Cemetery, Edgerton Ohio.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. and also Monday 1 hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church or DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

To send condolences visit www.fellerandclark.com.

STAR

DECEMBER 30 2011 Auburn, Indiana

Rutha New

GARRETT — Rutha Jane "Mama" New, age 73, of Garrett went to be with the Lord and her beloved husband, Dave, on Tuesday, December 27, 2011, with her family at her beside, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. New

Mrs. New was born in Pikeville, Kentucky, on March 31, 1938, to the late Harry and Louannie (Mosley) Gooslin.

She married Dave New on July 31, 1952, and he preceded her death on July 6, 1991.

Mamaw was a dedicated homemaker, devoted wife and stern yet loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She also worked part time as a seamstress with Messenger Sewing in Auburn.

Mamaw enjoyed working in the garden, tending to her flower beds, sewing and quilting, and being with her grandchildren and family.

Survivors include seven daughters, Louellen France of Garrett, Donna and Ken Gamble of Garrett, Marta New of Garrett, Sheila and Cecil Pridemore of Albion, Tammy and Scott Combs of Garrett, Sherry and Jim Irvin of Auburn and Christina and Jacob Picklesimer of Garrett; a son, Roger and Lisa New of Garrett; 23 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a son-in-law, Harold France who died November 11, 2002; three grandchildren, Marcella Hicks Mullins, Luke Andrew New and Jeffrey Scott Souder II; one great-grandchild, Lucas Edward Mullins; a brother, Bobby Gooslin; and a sister, Juanita Daniels.

Visitation will be today, Friday, December 30, 2011, after 3 p.m. at Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh.

Funeral services will be Saturday, December 31, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Mt. Calvary United Baptist. Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Willie Collins.

Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send a condolence to the family or view a video tribute of Mamaw by today at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

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